

■ Metro / A23

Aircon buses  
offer P1.50  
fare cut

■ World / A12

2 Americans, Briton  
kidnapped  
in Baghdad

■ Business / B1

GSIS goes after  
P40B in  
contributions

■ News / A3

6.2 quake  
shakes Metro,  
Luzon

■ Entertainment / A33

Gabriela supports  
Decena, Dungca  
vs Phillip Salvador



## Enrile blows top over 'guide questions'



By Christine Avendaño

OOPS, bungled again. Will the task force still under fire for its failure to resolve the multibillion-peso tax credit scam ever get it right?

ENRILE/A8



Friday, September 17, 2004 ★★ 68 pages / 6 sections / vol. 19 / no. 282 P18

## Usec on top of tax credit cases quits



**FINANCE**  
Undersecretary  
Inocencio  
Ferrer Jr. and  
Task Force  
executive  
director Alan  
Ventura  
undergo  
another grilling  
at the Senate.

By Michelle Y. Remo  
and Christine O. Avendaño

THE CO-CHAIR of the task force which is being investigated for its failure to make headway in the multibillion-peso tax credit scam, has resigned amid allegations that the agency is bungling its own cases in exchange for some favors.

Finance Undersecretary Inocencio Ferrer Jr. told senators yesterday that he turned in two "irrevocable" resignation letters to Finance Secretary Juanita Amason on Wednesday out of his sense of propriety.

Ferrer, who was also in charge of the country's domestic borrowings, was the second key economic adviser to go in a week as the



government grapples with daunting economic problems.

The finance department said his resignation was unrelated to National Treasurer Mina Figueroa's decision to quit earlier

**BLUE ribbon**  
committee Chair  
Joker Arroyo  
gives Ferrer a  
little more time.

JESS YUSON

USEC/A8

# Pay cuts for gov't fat cats

## GSIS, SEC heads vow to back austerity plan

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered her nominees in government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) to trim their fat compensation packages and observe her austerity program—or else.

Apparently mindful of the public outcry over the issue, Ms Arroyo laid down the directive during her meeting with GOCC executives on Wednesday night in Malacañang. In a speech yesterday before businessmen attending the 13th Mindanao Business Conference in Davao City, she said: "As for GOCCs, they are being pruned and whipped into line."

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin told radio station dzRB that the President had mandated "a

cut in pay of members of the board and officers of GOCCs that are not competing with the private sector."

Boncodin did not name the agencies to be covered or exempted. She said those that did not compete with the private sector would have to observe the Salary Standardization Law.

But Winston Garcia of the Government Service Insurance System and Fe Barin of the Securities and Exchange Commission are

PAY/A20

## Gov't workers press P3,000 wage increase

By Norman Bordadora  
in Manila  
and Vincent Cabreza  
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

EXPRESSING outrage, rank-and-file workers in the government yesterday urged Malacañang to prune the multimillion-peso salaries of the executives of its corporations and heed their call for a P3,000 across-the-board wage increase for themselves.

"It is simply outrageous that [many of the] 1.4 million govern-

ment employees are living way below the poverty line and are the hardest hit by [Malacañang's] austerity measures while the top officials of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) are overindulging in gargantuan salaries, allowances and bonuses," said Ferdinand Gaité, president of the nationwide Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage).

Gaité also said Malacañang's

GOV'T WORKERS/A19



## GMA asks top 50,000 taxpayers to pay P1M more

By PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Warning that the economy would be in its "death throes" in two years unless new taxes were imposed, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday asked the country's top 50,000 taxpayers to each pay P1 million more to help the government raise at least P180 billion to cover the budget deficit.

"Better to have some pain now and feel the gain two years from now than postpone the pain," the President said in a speech at the 13th Mindanao Business Conference here.

Ms Arroyo issued the warning amid widespread opposition to her proposal for new taxes and criticism of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) whose losses have contributed to the widening fiscal deficit.

A Pulse Asia survey found that 78 percent of the people were against new taxes and that they wanted the government to instead improve tax collection and stop wasteful spending.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye downplayed the threat of public opposition. "We are confident that as time passes, more and more will recognize the gravity of the situation and the need for greater sacrifice," he said in a statement.

In her speech, Ms Arroyo said no traditional politician would ask the people to pay more taxes at a time when the people felt they were already suffering.

"But as President, if I'm to be an honest President I must do so in all candor because our people deserve no less than the truth from

GMA/A11

**WRONG VENUE.** A member of a new singing group called D'Bodies tries to coax a song out of a Manila policeman as they stage a racy show along Roxas Boulevard on Thursday. Unimpressed, policemen said they would file charges against the women. (See story on Page A23.)

## Despondent athlete commits suicide

After long brave run, endurance man Ibañez falters in the end

By Fe B. Zamora

SAN Pedro, Laguna—Perito "Pokong" Ibañez proved his endurance in long-distance running and cycling, but ranged against life's adversities, the 25-year-old prize-winning triathlete faltered and fell.

On June 24, the 5-foot-1-inch Ibañez hanged himself inside his

room in a rented apartment here, driven to despondency by financial and family problems.

In two suicide notes, he spoke of "pressing problems that I could not handle anymore," according to younger brother Renato and friend, Romel "Jing" Anchoria, who read Ibañez's last letters.

He also asked for forgiveness from his mother, Ely.

Ibañez's death not only deprived Philippine sports of a young athlete who, if developed to his full potentials, might have had a chance to represent the country in the 2006 Asian Games.

It also threw into focus the sorely inadequate support Filipino athletes get from sports

DESPONDENT/A10

## We have become 'people of the lie'

(Editor's Note: The writer, a doctor of psychiatry and stress and trauma specialist, is the director of the Center for Gender and Women's Studies at the University of the Philippines Manila, the chief of psychiatry and behavior medicine at the Philippine Heart Center, and associate professor of psychiatry at the UP College of Medicine.)

By Dr. June C. Pagaduan-Lopez

THE TRAGIC news rekindled my heartbreak.

A young athlete had hanged himself. Friends

and fellow athletes suggested

two reasons for his despondency—the breakup with his live-in partner, and serious financial problems. Two months earlier,

he had stopped receiving his allowance from the Philippine Sports Commission, half of which he had shared with another athlete.

I would have written this commentary seven months ago, as I promised my daughter and all her athlete friends, after witnessing their misadventures during the SEA Games in Hanoi, Vietnam.

WE HAVE/A10



**IBANEZ** wrote two suicide notes.



**RELATIVES** and friends visit Perito Ibañez's tomb at a cemetery in San Pedro, Laguna.

ROMY HOMILADA



## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western Visayas, Mindoro and Palawan will experience occasional rains with gusty winds. Central and the rest of Southern Luzon, rest of Visayas and Western Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy.

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/17/04 SOURCE: PAGASA

## Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer.news@mailcity/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Region	Weather	Region	Weather
Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Occasional Rains	Occasional Rains
Region I	Partly Cloudy	Occasional Rains	Occasional Rains
Region II	Partly Cloudy	Occasional Rains	Occasional Rains
Region III	Partly Cloudy	Occasional Rains	Occasional Rains
Region IV	Partly Cloudy	Occasional Rains	Occasional Rains
Region V	Partly Cloudy	Occasional Rains	Occasional Rains
Region VI	Partly Cloudy	Occasional Rains	Occasional Rains
Region VII	Partly Cloudy	Occasional Rains	Occasional Rains
Region VIII	Partly Cloudy	Occasional Rains	Occasional Rains
Region IX	Partly Cloudy	Occasional Rains	Occasional Rains
Region X	Partly Cloudy	Occasional Rains	Occasional Rains
Region XI	Partly Cloudy	Occasional Rains	Occasional Rains
Region XII	Partly Cloudy	Occasional Rains	Occasional Rains
Region XIII	Partly Cloudy	Occasional Rains	Occasional Rains
Region XIV	Partly Cloudy	Occasional Rains	Occasional Rains
Region XV	Partly Cloudy	Occasional Rains	Occasional Rains
Region XVI	Partly Cloudy	Occasional Rains	Occasional Rains
Region XVII	Partly Cloudy	Occasional Rains	Occasional Rains
Region XVIII	Partly Cloudy	Occasional Rains	Occasional Rains
Region XIX	Partly Cloudy	Occasional Rains	Occasional Rains
Region XX	Partly Cloudy	Occasional Rains	Occasional Rains

## JDV backtracks; pork here to stay

By Carlito Pablo and Cynthia D. Balana

CONGRESSIONAL pork is here to stay. It's only the system of doling it out that will change.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. yesterday made this clarification in the face of a brewing rebellion against his leadership among House members unwilling to give up their pork and opposed to De Venecia's earlier announcement that the pork barrel system would be abolished.

De Venecia, who said that he would be holding a dialogue with House members on Monday to settle the pork barrel row, explained in a dzMM radio interview and at a Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines forum that what would be abolished was the "corruption-prone" system of lump sum appropriations of the pork barrel funds.

Each representative receives a lump sum appropriation of P65 million to P70 million a year (senators receive P200 million each), which they then directed towards projects of their choosing in their congressional districts.

This became a major source of corruption as many legislators allegedly made money from bribes and commissions from the private contractors of the projects.

De Venecia said that under the new system being proposed, the representatives would still have their pork barrel but they would have less discretion to juggle the funds as they would be required to identify in advance what projects would be funded from it.

He said this will be done through the line-item budgeting process which the House appropriations committee will implement when it goes over the proposed 2005 national budget submitted by Malacañang.

De Venecia said that under this budgeting system, each project, whether school or irrigation system, would be identified in the budget "so no one will cheat."

The public works requirements of every barangay, city and town from Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and Metro Manila will be specified.

By identifying the projects for each district, he said there can be no realignment of funds as full disclosure of the nature and amounts of these allocations would be required.

"So in effect, it abolishes the pork barrel system but the public works requirements are still there," De Venecia said.

In its national budget proposal, Malacañang has already provided for a 40 percent cut in the yearly pork barrel funds of representatives and senators.

De Venecia said Congress would also see to the implementation of "electronic procurement bidding" to make contracts transparent and lessen suspicions of corruption.

In another House controversy, Zambales Rep. Antonio Diaz on Wednesday night apologized to his colleagues for his pseudo-resignation and the bad publicity it generated, putting the blame squarely on the media.

In a privilege speech, Diaz explained that his Sept. 9 resignation letter to De Venecia in which he said it was "no longer an honor to serve" in the House, may have been "misunderstood."

He said the sentence should have read: "It is no longer an honor to serve this body which media perception has played up so badly, Mr. Speaker, which was once an august body."

The group of 24 neophyte representatives who filed a complaint with the House ethics committee against Diaz accepted Diaz's apology and said they would withdraw the complaint.

## Speaker returns, fights back

By Carlito Pablo and Cynthia D. Balana

LESS than a day after he returned from abroad, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. yesterday moved to quell a brewing revolt in the House that could end up in his losing control of the chamber.

De Venecia lashed out at the rebellion's main instigator, Rep. Rodolfo Albano III (Kampik, Isabela), calling him a political butterfly.

Albano had bolted the majority bloc, resigned as deputy speaker and called on De Venecia to share the speakership with others as a first step in improving the image of the House.

A number of House members allied with Albano have been exhibiting some restiveness over the issue of abolishing the pork barrel system and the allegedly uneven distribution of committee chairmanships.

In an interview with dzMM radio, De Venecia said that Albano was dissatisfied over his failure to get into the inter-agency commission tasked to oversee the privatization of the National Power Corp., the state-owned power-generating firm.

"That's the way he (Albano) is," said De Venecia of Albano, noting how the latter started out with the Nationalist People's Coalition, then moved to the ruling Lakas-CMD, jumping to the revived Kabalikang Malayang Pilipino party of President Macapagal-Arroyo a few weeks ago, before joining the minority last week.

De Venecia explained that there would have been a conflict of interest if he had let Albano go to the power commission overseeing Napocor as his father, former congressman Rodolfo Albano Jr., was chair of the Energy Regulatory Commission, the state power regulator.

The senior Albano and De Venecia are close political allies, their friendship spanning several decades.

De Venecia described as "strong and fairly solid" the support for his leadership in the House, saying the intramural among the members and protests against his stewardship were normal in a democracy.

"These are just noises of democracy," De Venecia told a forum at the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines as he stressed that he was not disturbed by the reported dissatisfaction among some House members over his handling of the pork barrel issue and the distribution of committee chairmanships.

In a separate interview with dzMM radio, Albano III hit back at De Venecia, claiming that "the trouble with him is that he is always traveling abroad."

He also did not see any conflict of interest in his becoming a member of the power commission as he claimed "the commission has no jurisdiction over the ERC."

## Spy cameras for graft busters

By Armand N. Nocum

IT'S NOT only corrupt government officials who will be under the Ombudsman's watchful eye.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo has filled the Ombudsman's central office in Quezon City with "spy cameras" to monitor the movements of its personnel and visitors.

And Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarieto Gervacio Jr. has had enough of the right security.

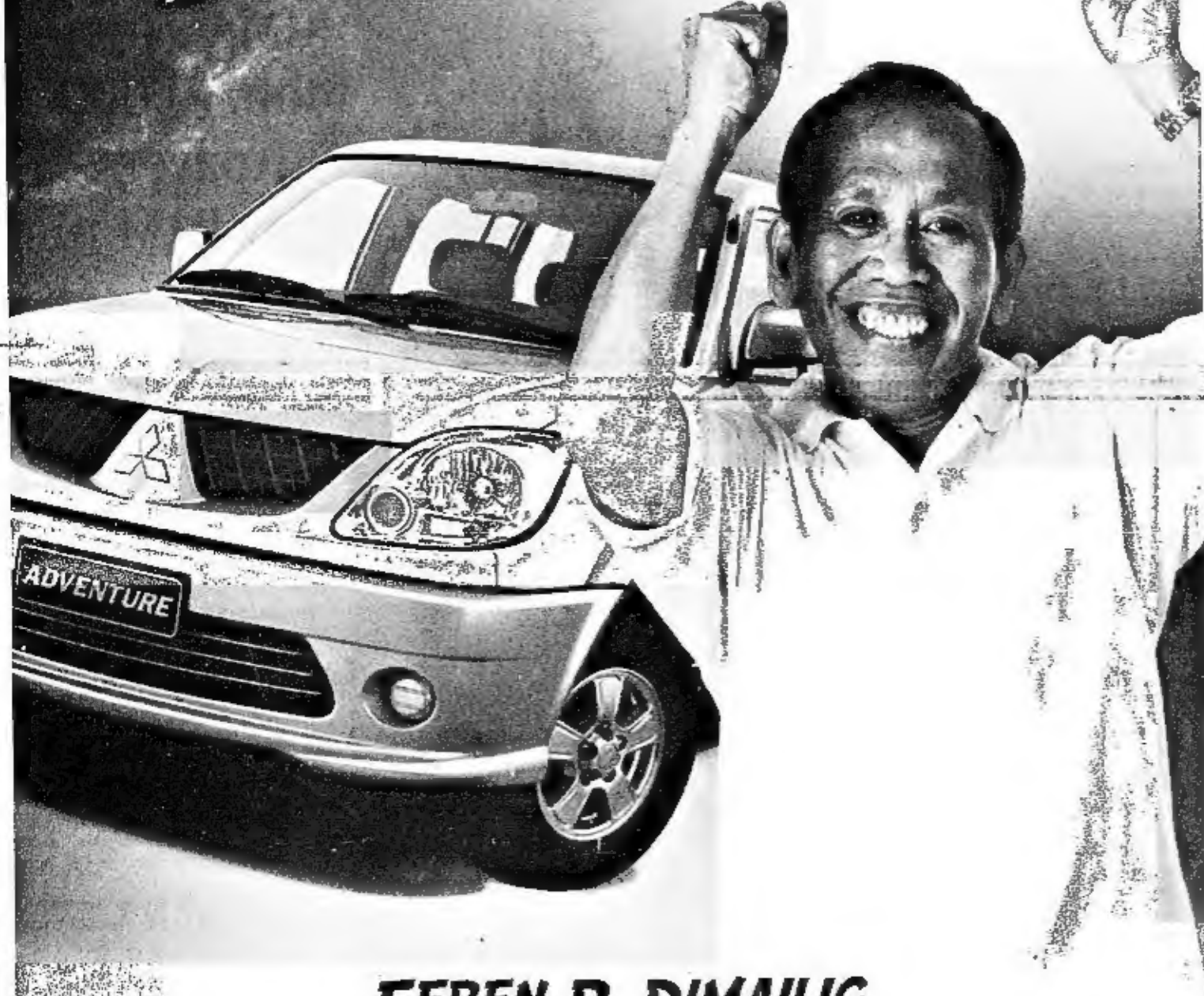
"They are cutting the accessibility of the general public to the officials who are supposed to serve them, which is contrary to law," said Gervacio in an interview with the INQUIRER at his office.

The cameras were installed over a month ago in key areas of the Ombudsman's office. Before that, Marcelo put in place a color-coded pass system which requires visitors to get a different color pass for every floor they visit.

To do this, they have to return to the ground floor each time they need to go to another floor. If they need to transact business on three floors, they have to go down to the ground floor three times.

When reporters complained about the system, Marcelo ordered the issuance of one ID for all floors.

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

PHOTO: JIMMY A. BAYAN/INQUIRER



FRIDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2004

A3

## 2 strong quakes rock RP

By Norman Bordadora

TWO RELATIVELY strong earthquakes shook the country's largest islands, Luzon and Mindanao, just before dawn yesterday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology reported.

Phivolcs field monitoring teams had yet to report any damage but experts expected aftershocks to occur.

The Luzon quake with a magnitude of 6.2 occurred at 3:10 a.m. with its epicenter in Balanga, Bataan, followed 35 minutes later by a magnitude 5.2 temblor centered near General Santos City in Mindanao at 3:45 a.m.

Phivolcs experts, however, said the temblors were not connected as they were caused by movement in tectonic plates (near the earth's crust) in different parts of the country.

"These were unrelated," said Phivolcs expert Joan Salcedo. The Luzon quake was caused by movement in the Manila trench while the Mindanao tremor was caused by a deformation in the Sangihe slab in southern Mindanao.

Intensity 4 was recorded in Bataan, Manila, Subic, Tagaytay and Pampanga.

Intensity 3 was recorded in Quezon City, Makati, Taguig, Marikina and Las Piñas in Metro Manila; Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro; Batangas City; Malolos and Sta. Maria in Bulacan; Lucban and Infanta in Quezon, and Cabuyao and Biñan in Laguna.

Intensity 2 was recorded in Caloocan City and Baguio City.

Salcedo explained that magnitude measures the amount of energy released by an earthquake, while the Richter scale measures the intensity of the temblor's effect on structures and people in the affected areas.

"We normally expect aftershocks after earthquakes of great magnitude. Six-point-two is considered a strong earthquake and we expect aftershocks," Salcedo said.

In the second quake, Intensity 4 was recorded in General Santos City.

"(Magnitude) 5.2 is not really strong but we still expect aftershocks," Salcedo said.

Jaime Sincio, Phivolcs resident scientist at Clark Field, Pampanga, said the Luzon quake occurred at a depth of 91.1 kilometers.

He said "shallow focus" earthquakes, with depths of less than 70 km, tended to be stronger and created more damage because these were closer to the earth's surface where the rocks were stronger and built up more strain.

Annette Libas, 27, in Pampanga, said she was lying awake when her home started swaying.

"I thought our house might collapse, but the shaking stopped, leaving us just rattled," she told The Associated Press. With Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk; AP



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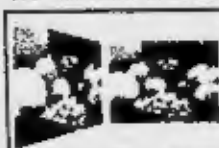
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# No belt tightening at DBP amid crisis

By Armand N. Nocum

WHILE the rest of the government is tightening its belt in light of the fiscal crisis, the directors of the Development Bank of the Philippines have managed to create jobs for their wives, children and other relatives.

In a letter to Commission on Audit (COA) Chair Guillermo Carague, a top DBP official said the "irregular hiring" had caused "demoralization" among DBP employees.

"Before the start of the last election ban, the DBP board of directors approved the creation of confidential and co-terminus positions for the office of the board. Each director is entitled to two positions which are given to close relatives (wives, children, cousins, etc.)," said Emma G. Urieta, senior assistant vice president in the DBP's Office of the Legal Counsel.

## Napocor woes blamed on GMA

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's populist move to put a cap on power rate adjustments two years ago not only pushed the country into a fiscal crisis, it has also jeopardized the government's ability to sell National Power Corp. and attract investors to build new power plants to avert a looming power crisis.

University of the Philippines economist and former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Felipe Medalla told the INQUIRER that President Arroyo's decision to reduce Napocor purchased power adjustment from P1.25 per kilowatt hour to only 40 centavos in 2002 has set back industry reforms by at least two years.

Medalla said the cap, which he described as a move to win the elections, practically stalled the implementation of the Epira (the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001) because it discouraged investors from taking a strong interest in Napocor.

Sen. Joker Arroyo had earlier said that the ballooning public sector deficit could be traced directly to the President's meddling in the power rate setting which has only increased government subsidies on electricity sales.

The Sept. 6 letter, a copy of which the INQUIRER obtained from COA sources, was also furnished President Macapagal-Arroyo.

According to Urieta, the salaries of these confidential employees are taken from each director's P75,000 "office and staff allowance," a disbursement that Carague had earlier disapproved.

Urieta, however, did not state in her letter how many board members the DBP had or how many confidential personnel had been hired.

Urieta said DBP president Simon Paterno had earlier decreed the confidential employees "are not required to report to the bank (DBP)."

What she found "anomalous" and "prejudicial to the interest of the bank," she said, was the fact that while the DBP directors claimed these employees were not being paid by the bank because their salaries came from the directors' allowances, "their plantilla items are with the DBP and their appointments were approved by the (Civil Service Commission)."

They also get a health care plan and a monthly rice subsidy, she said.

Urieta also accused the DBP board of filling a "third level position to accommodate a political recommendee," despite a duplication of functions.

She pointed to the July appointment of lawyer Benilda Tejada to replace DBP Chief Legal Counsel Carlos R. Cruz, who is retiring in December.

### Correction

IN THE Sept. 14 issue, in a story on Page A15, "John O sues Cebu rivals for plunder," the figure on Cebu province's total income that was attributed to lawyer Pablo John Garcia and that was based on a Commission on Audit report should have been P1,398,047,000 (or P1.39 billion), and not P1,398,047 (or P1.39 million).

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address: rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

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**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2004**

# MILF leaders off the hook in Davao blasts

By Philip C. Tabara

A DAVAO court has formally dropped the criminal charges against the top Moro Islamic Liberation Front leaders linked to the bombing of the Davao wharf

and airport last year that killed 38 persons and injured hundreds, said Chief Public Attorney Persida Rueda-Acosta yesterday.

Davao Regional Trial Judge Paul Arcangel dismissed on Sept. 10 the multiple murder and mul-

tipled frustrated murder case against 190 suspects in the case, which included current MILF chair Al Haj Murad, vice chair Ghadzali Jaafar, and spokesperson Eid Kabalu, Acosta said.

Acosta said Arcangel issued the

order after the Public Attorney's Office was able to convince the Department of Justice that there was no probable cause against the suspects.

"This will be of great help to the peace process," Acosta said.

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## Dieting Loi faints in badminton court

By Michael Lim Ubac

SEN. LUISA "Loi" Estrada was rushed to a hospital Wednesday night after she fainted while playing badminton in Libis, Quezon City.

"But my mother is okay now," said Sen. Jinggoy Estrada in a phone interview a few hours after the former first lady was admitted to Medical City in Pasig City.

Senator Loi was discharged from the hospital the next morning after she was found to be "in good health without any signs of cardiovascular disease," said Dr. Roberto Anastacio.

"She was very, very fortunate that she did not have any signs of a heart attack, and she's now home resting," said Jinggoy Estrada.

Mrs. Estrada had been playing badminton for two hours when she complained of dizziness to her daughter Jacky, with whom she was playing, at about 7 p.m.

Asked if she collapsed, Jinggoy Estrada said: "She told me everything went dark... and then she fainted."

The younger Estrada said the dizziness may have been caused by "dehydration because she was playing badminton for two straight hours while she was on a diet."

Estrada said his mother was on her second week of the South Beach Diet, a weight-loss program that prohibits for the first two weeks the intake of sweets, fruits and other carbohydrate-based products essential to the body in strenuous sports.

Jinggoy said his mother played badminton three times a week. "She does not rest, she plays badminton for two hours straight."

The other night, her body finally succumbed to fatigue, leaving her "feeling very weak" and "really dehydrated," Jinggoy said.

"According to my sister Jacky, she did not see our mother drink any water at all while they were playing," he said.

Jinggoy said he immediately informed his father, former President Joseph Estrada, about what happened. "He, of course, was surprised and was calling me every minute to ask about the condition of my mother," he said.

Asked if the doctors advised Mrs. Estrada to stop her diet, Jinggoy said, "Maybe, I don't know."

Anastacio, a cardiologist at Makati Medical Center and the University of Sto. Tomas Hospital, said in a medical bulletin that "on critical investigation, the senator was clammy with normal blood pressure (120/80) and cardiovascular system."

"The whole problem was centered on heat and humidity resulting in dehydration. After a fluid intravenous challenge, she immediately improved, rested and went home after several hours," Anastacio said.

Earlier, on Sept. 8, during a hearing of the Senate committee on games, amusement and sports, the soft-spoken Senator Estrada had joked that she could never win a badminton match against former first lady Amelita Ramos, the president of the Philippine Badminton Association.

This after Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid had suggested the two former first ladies play each other in a fund-raiser for next year's Southeast Asian games.

Amid chuckles from the crowd, Mrs. Estrada said of Mrs. Ramos: "Mr. Chairman, I can't bear her. She is the authority when it comes to badminton."

But Mrs. Ramos quipped back: "Mrs. Loi is already the winner."

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## PNOC says it earned P4.6B in 3 years

THE PHILIPPINE National Oil Company (PNOC) reported a net consolidated income of P4.646 billion from 2001 to 2003 and is expected to post net earnings of P2.446 billion this year, according to records of the Commission on Audit (COA).

The COA figures show a significant financial turnaround for the PNOC when Ambassador Thelmo Cunanan, its immediate past president and chief executive officer, was at its helm from 2001 to 2003.

"I would like to set the record straight: the PNOC is making money, not losing money. The PNOC and its subsidiaries have also registered improved financial ratios—a significant and substantial turnaround since I assumed its presidency in February 2001," Cunanan said in a statement. "Thus, based on our record of the past three years, the PNOC is projected to continue making a substantial profit this year."

Cunanan issued the statement in response to erroneous reports that the PNOC will end up with a P1.4 billion loss in 2004 and would be among the "top money losers" of the government this year.

From 2001-2003, COA records show that the PNOC remitted a total of P1.804 billion to the government, of which P793.9 million was collected by the National Treasury last year alone.

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# Ferrer says he earned ire of syndicate after filing 1,023 cases

FORMER Finance Undersecretary Inocencio Ferrer Jr. said yesterday that the filing of criminal and administrative cases by the Presidential Task Force 156 against members of a syndicate operating in the Department of Finance, Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs earned him the ire of

these people.

Ferrer said he led in the filing of the 1,023 criminal cases against some of the bigwigs in the finance department as alternate chair of PTF 156.

"It is the biggest number of criminal cases filed against the high-ranking officials of the finance de-

partment for violation of anti-graft and corrupt practices and falsification of public documents in support of President Macapagal-Arroyo's anti-corruption drive," he said in a statement after he stepped down as finance undersecretary and alternate chair of the task force.

Ferrer said members of the syn-

dicate had defrauded the government of P1.6 billion.

He said the cases were filed by the task force with the assistance of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) as those involved in the tax scam were big private companies with links to people in the DOF, BOC and BIR.

Ferrer said PTF 156 should not be blamed for the dismissal of collection cases being handled by the BIR and BOC.

"It is the BIR and the BOC which have the exclusive jurisdiction to litigate the collection cases against those involved in the tax credit scam. Harmonizing the

provision of Executive Order No. 156 as amended by EO 38 with the National Internal Revenue Code and the Tariff and Customs Code, the task force's role is merely to investigate and gather evidence against those involved in the tax credit scam," Ferrer said.

## Usec on top of tax credit cases quits

From page A1

this week.

Pigueroa said Monday she was returning to the private sector and denied speculation that she

quit because of policy differences with other finance officials over the government's borrowings.

Ferrer said he had asked Arroyo to relieve him of his duties as finance undersecretary and alter-

nate chair of the Special Presidential Task Force 156.

He said he merely reiterated his offer to resign as he had turned in resignation letters dated Feb. 26 and May 19 this year for his two positions.

"I resigned out of delicadeza ... on the grounds based on various newspaper reports that my integrity as a member of the task force is being questioned," Ferrer told Sen. Joker Arroyo, who had asked the finance undersecretary about reports that he had stepped down.

But Ferrer assured Arroyo that he would make himself available to the senator's blue ribbon committee.

The committee though may be closing its investigation of the task force's prosecution of the P5.3-billion tax credit scam.

Arroyo said he was giving Ferrer until this weekend to decide whether the latter wanted to say anything more about the task force's performance.

Ferrer told reporters that he

had asked to be relieved of his duties as co-chair of the task force in February after reports of accusations against him came out.

He was apparently referring to reports that he had tried to extort money from Felix Chingkie, brother of Faustino Chingkie, the alleged mastermind in the tax credit scam.

"While I totally and completely deny all the fabrications and lies hurled against me by one of those involved in the tax credit scam, I believe that my resignation as alternate chairman will dissipate the situation created by the media attacks against the task force," Ferrer said in a statement issued by the Department of Finance.

### Burning witnesses

The SPTF is being accused of burning witnesses when it tagged as suspects people who acted as vital witnesses to several cases of tax credit fraud.

It is criticized for naming peo-

ple in the One-Stop Shop Duty and Credit Drawback Center (OSS), namely OSS executive director Ernesto Hiansen, and members Marlene Marquez and Philip Santiago, as tax credit scam suspects.

The three are essential witnesses to several cases included in the P5.3-billion tax credit scam because of the nature of their work. Hiansen acts as head of the OSS, while Marquez is directly involved in the processing of tax credit. Santiago serves as the keeper of records.

The OSS is a unit of the Department of Finance that is tasked with processing application for tax credits.

### Dirty work

Felix Chingkie, also a vital witness to tax credit fraud cases, earlier asked Malacañang to sack Ferrer, saying the SPTF is doing dirty work.

"The President should kick out Ferrer without prejudice to the filing

of criminal charges against him. By kicking Ferrer out of government, the President will send signal that she is serious in instituting a sense of morality in government service," Felix Chingkie earlier said.

In response to accusations that the task force compromised its witnesses, SPTF Executive Director Alan Ventura said his office could not be faulted for adding Hiansen, Marquez and Santiago to the list of suspects because the SPTF had evidence showing that they appeared to have participated in the tax scam.

He said the OSS members should be held responsible for allowing the use of fake tax credits.

"If a murderer becomes a witness to another murder case, will it be proper for that person to be immune from his case just because he is a witness?" said Ventura, defending the move of the SPTF to include the three in its investigation reports submitted to the Office of the Ombudsman. With a report from AP

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## Enrile blows top over 'guide questions'

From page A1

Opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday scolded an official of Special Presidential Task Force 156 who reportedly tried to tell members of the Senate blue ribbon committee what questions to ask.

At the resumption of what might have been the committee's last hearing on accusations of dismal performance against the presidential body, Enrile blew his top at Alan Ventura, task force executive director.

The senator said the clarifications that Ventura forwarded to the committee chair, Sen. Joker Arroyo, had included a three-page section titled "Suggested Questions for Interpellation by Administration Senators."

Enrile said Arroyo had given him a copy of Ventura's briefing paper dated Aug. 23.

"Is that the way you treat elected senators belonging to the administration, that you suggest to them the kinds of questions that you want them to ask you?" Enrile chided Ventura, who testified yesterday.

"I've been in the Senate for 12 years ... and this is the first time that somebody had the temerity like you to suggest questions to a senator, to

members of the administration in this chamber in connection with a matter that involves your organization."

He was unstoppable: "What [makes you think] you can do this, unless you had a previous understanding with the members of the Senate on this? Or you are being instructed to control them or suggest to them the kind of questions that they have to bring out so that you can answer them nicely?"

Expectedly, Ventura denied this was his intent. The task force merely wanted to help the senators, he said. The suggested questions were meant "to serve as a guide so that the inquiry could be expedited."

He would not be stopped, either: "Our intention really is to help the senators concerned [get] a better idea of the situation considering their voluminous work."

Enrile was not impressed. Instead, he demanded that Ventura resign from the task force, "because you are a discredited to public service."

Sen. Manuel Villar, the only administration lawmaker present, cracked up the audience when he denied having received a copy of Ventura's unfortunate letter. He was just there to take his lunch, Villar said.

The task force was set up in 1999 to

go after people behind the scam involving fraudulently acquired tax credit certificates.

As in the first hearing last week, the task force officials found themselves clearly on the defensive.

Enrile and Arroyo once again interrogated Finance Undersecretary Inocencio Ferrer Jr., task force co-chair, this time on what the special body had done with the results of an investigation that he himself had ordered on the remaining companies of alleged scam mastermind Faustino Chingkie. The probe results were given to Ferrer two years ago.

Arroyo reminded Ferrer that the investigating team led by lawyer Luis Ma. Urraza submitted its report on Aug. 8, 2002. The report included evidence against Chingkie, Arroyo said, like checks and records of bank deposits.

Ferrer said he reviewed the documents and forwarded them to the task force executive committee, which decided that "there were some evidence not yet available."

Then he revealed that Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez had asked Malacañang to extend the life of the task force, which was to expire on Oct. 7.

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Oct. 2 - Nov. 5	Nov. 5	Second	Nov. 8	Robinsons Sta. Rita (Luzon entrance) Robinsons Plaza Mandaluyong (GMA entrance)	2 units L300 PET
Nov. 6 - Nov. 30	Nov. 30	Grand Draw	Dec. 4	Robinsons Alabang (Luzon entrance)	4 units L300 PET

### For MINISTOP:

Entries dropped within	Deadline of submission of entries	Draw	Draw Date	Draw Venues	Prizes to be given away
Sept. 1 - Nov. 30	Nov. 30 (12 midnight)	Grand Draw	Dec. 10	MINISTOP Head Office	1 unit L300 PET 450 SMC gift packs worth P500 each

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11. Grand Draw winners will be notified via registered mail and telephone. They must claim their prize upon presentation of the registered mail, the claim stub, a valid ID and TIN.
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17. Promo period is from September 1 to November 30, 2004.



# Gov't workers press for P3,000 wage increase

From page A1

plan to do away with certain GOCCs would hit the rank and file hardest.

"It's like putting innocent employees on death row for the heinous crimes of these officials," he said. "If there's anybody who should go, it should be [the latter]."

In Baguio City, members of Courage and of workers unions of National Power Corp. told the inquirer on Tuesday that they would fight to protect their jobs amid the government's efforts to cut costs and contain the huge budget deficit.

They said they all expected to be "sacrificed soon" by the government "to set an example." They also accused the Napocor board of directors of not being transparent about the "table of organization" identifying those supposedly to be retrenched by December.

Ces Peta, coordinator of

Courage in the Cordillera, also warned that the streamlining measures of local governments could raise to 1.5 million the number of workers to be terminated within five years.

Baguio is undertaking its own reorganization plan that involves the merging of four local departments into one environment office. This plan threatens the jobs of about 300 city employees.

"We anticipate that the government will call us unpatriotic for pursuing a P3,000 [pay increase] and seeking the retention of government agencies," Peta said. "But we are fighting for our survival."

## 'Deceptive' plan

According to Peta, Malacañang is preparing to dissolve certain GOCCs now that Congress is scrutinizing the executives' salaries and allowances.

But the government's plan to solve the deficit is "deceptive" because Malacañang is target-

ing agencies that previous administrations had scheduled for privatization, she said.

She described GOCCs as viable assets that could earn the government a hefty profit to cover part of the deficit.

Peta said Malacañang had listed Napocor, National Food Authority and other agencies like Land Bank of the Philippines among those targeted in 2000 under a privatization plan that "never took off."

During President Macapagal-Arroyo's first term, the NFA employees union was able to block a directive dissolving the agency in accordance with the terms of the Asian Development Bank loan for the grains sector development program.

As for Napocor, a Baguio-based union member said it had been told to cut its workforce by 300 even before the budget deficit triggered a controversy.

"Congress has been attacking Napocor [for its huge payroll and

retirement package, which increased its debts]. But it [was silent] when Napocor violated our tenure. [We] fought that retirement package because we were retrenched and then rehired for the same positions but for a substantial pay cut," the union member said.

## Gov't not powerless

Gaite said it was not enough for Malacañang to appeal to the sense of dedication of GOCC executives.

He said that Malacañang was "not powerless," and that what was needed was "the will to correct these glaring inequities."

"It can start now by trimming the excess [pay of GOCC executives] and adjusting the pay of the rank-and-file employees," he said.

Figures provided by Courage showed that the average government employee receives an average gross pay of P8,709 (or

the civil service salary grade 10). An entry-level employee (salary grade 1) receives P5,082.

These salaries are subject to mandatory deductions such as withholding tax, Government Service Insurance System premiums, and Pag-ibig and PhilHealth contributions.

According to government estimates, a family of six in Metro Manila needs at least P16,000 a month to survive.

Government employees are pushing for a P3,000 across-the-board nationwide salary increase. Courage said that the last salary adjustment was done in 2001 and that the effect of the 5-percent raise was hardly felt.

"To pay government executives huge salaries is not illegal. In fact, these positions, considered the juiciest, were awarded to the most loyal supporters of the President," Gaite said.

"But what is legal may not nec-

essarily be moral," he said.

## Public service

The Trade Union said Ms Arroyo's austerity program would amount to nothing if Malacañang did not rationalize the pay of GOCC executives.

"The bottom line is these officials should be taught better understanding of the meaning of public service," TUCP spokesperson Alex Aguilar said in a statement.

Aguilar suggested that GOCCs incorporate in their annual reports the "fat checks" and perks received by their executives and submit these to public scrutiny.

"This will hopefully make them think better and prevent them from abusing the powers of their offices," he said.

The TUCP also urged Congress to pass a law that would set limits on the salaries of GOCC executives. With a report from Martin R Marfil

# Despondent athlete commits suicide

From page A1

bodies—and their government.

## Sleepless nights

Renato Ibañez, 21, said his brother was a quiet man who kept his problems to himself.

"But he changed after his allowance was cut off. He was giving money to my mother," the younger Ibañez said in Pilipino. The allowance, he said, "had come from the Philippine Sports Commission."

An uncle, Ricardo Olimpo, said the runner/cyclist resorted to drinking beer four days before the suicide.

"He became sullen and started visiting friends he had not seen for a long time. He drank because he said he could not sleep," Olimpo told the inquirer.

## Trained to hang on

In a separate suicide note addressed to the San Pedro Team Unified Sports Association (SPTUSA), a multi-sports team of which he had been a member since 1998, Ibañez also asked for forgiveness.

"He said that he hoped we could find somebody to take his place," said Anchoriz, the SPTUSA president.

Triathlon national team coach and SPTUSA founder Abelardo "Aber" Alon-alon said the team was stunned by the suicide.

"His suicide made us angry and confused," Alon-alon said. "As a triathlete, he was trained to hurdle challenges. Then he gave up."

Five days before he took his life, a spirited Ibañez had joined

the Laguna Day sports festival and had even won fourth place. He was to have left for Singapore yesterday for the Desaru International Triathlon competition.

## A 'gutsy man'

Ibañez, along with Alon-alon and top triathletes Alvin Alindogan and Bing Alon, represented the country in the Macau International Triathlon in November 2003. Competing twice in December last year, he won the 7-km trail run in Boracay and was third overall in the Tour of Laguna duathlon.

Anchoriz said Ibañez was also "gutsy." In 2002, Ibañez, a high school graduate who could barely speak English, traveled to Taiwan alone to represent the country in the triathlon competition.

Three Filipino triathletes had backed out because of the SARS outbreak at that time.

"Pokong is a big loss to Philippine sports. He could have been the country's bet in international duathlon," Alon-alon said.

"Pokong was a natural duathlete," said Tom Carrasco, president of the Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP). Given more training and attention, he "could still be developed," Carrasco added.

## Blown chances

Carrasco said Ibañez had the talent to win a place in the national duathlon team, which is to compete for the first time in the Asian Games to be held in 2006 in Doha, Qatar.

At the time of his death, Ibañez was ranked fourth in the Philippines in duathlon, an en-

durance sport consisting of running and cycling over long distances exceeding 40 km.

Prior to his ranking in duathlon, Ibañez had also been part of a pool of trainees with potentials for inclusion in the national team for triathlon, a more strenuous sport which consists of swimming, biking and running, also over long distances.

In February, the TRAP underwent a realignment of its athletes in preparation for the SEA Games in 2005 and the Asian Games in 2006. Deemed "weak" in swimming, Ibañez was transferred to the run-bike-run or duathlon event because "that was where his strength lay," Alon-alon said.

## Team spirit

Carrasco said members of the training pool for triathlon and duathlon do not get allowances from the PSC. It is TRAP, which is partly subsidized by the PSC, which handles the expenses during the trainees' bikeout qualifying competitions and even during foreign competitions.

Carrasco said that, until February this year, the members of the national triathlon team were each receiving a P7,000 monthly allowance from the PSC. As gesture of camaraderie, most national team members shared their monthly allowances with the "trainees," like Ibañez, who was already a full-time athlete.

## Then came the blow

It was an informal arrangement welcomed by TRAP. "We encourage this [sharing] because it fosters team spirit,"

Carrasco said.

When the allowances were discontinued in February because of the PSC's cost-cutting measures, Ibañez was left to scrounge for funds, taking part in local competitions for the prize money.

With his winnings and with a meager support from the SPTUSA, he struggled along.

"We helped any way we can, like providing spare parts to keep his bike in tip-top condition," Anchoriz said.

A good bike allowed Ibañez to join competitions and win. A BMX enthusiast as a teenager, Ibañez shared his winnings with his mother, who had been diagnosed with an enlarged heart. His father, Perfecto, was jobless, while another sister is in high school.

Another sister stays at home to assist their ailing mother, said younger brother Renato, who himself works as a helper at a subdivision here.

## The price of love

Ibañez also earned a little money doing the work of a "masseur" for SPTUSA members.

The SPTUSA shouldered his entry fees during competitions, which ranged from P250 to as high as P1,500. Alon-alon said endurance athletes, like Ibañez, burned a lot of energy. "That's why we (in SPTUSA) were always feeding him," he said.

In May, Ibañez worked at a construction site in Tagaytay, cycling the distance from San Pedro to Tagaytay and back, every

day. It was a temporary job.

In San Pedro, he kept an apartment with Rose, his live-in partner.

The presence of Rose in his life had "complicated" things as Ibañez now had to share his income with her, Renato said. "They stopped his allowance because he already had a live-in partner," the younger brother said.

After the suicide, Rose went home to Quezon. The couple was childless.

## Gov't support dwindling

But Alon-alon, a three-time national triathlon champion and member of the national swimming team for years, said having a live-in partner was never a ground for stopping an athlete's allowance.

"The truth is that government support for triathlon has been dwindling in the past years," Alon-alon said.

He said trainees used to receive each a P3,500 monthly allowance, but this was discontinued sometime last year. The national team's allowances were cut off in February this year.

"So, what's next?" Alon-alon said.

Carrasco confirmed the stoppage of the allowances. He said only medalists from the 2003 SEA Games received monthly allowances.

## Personal problems

But Carrasco also said that Ibañez's performance had been deteriorating these past months.

Early this year, he said, Ibañez failed to make it to the top three in the duathlon qualifying com-

petition held at Clark.

"His personal problems were already affecting his performance," Carrasco said.

Alon-alon said it was SOP for athletes and coaches to meet at least once a month, besides the usual post-event assessments, mostly to discuss their performances. Personal problems were never discussed.

Ibañez kept to himself whatever emotional turmoil he might have had.

"Hindi mo halata, Si Pokong kasi, masaya or malungkot, iisa lang sa kanya yon (You won't sense it with Pokong. Whether he was happy or sad, it was all the same with him, outwardly)," Alon-alon said.

## An omen

Ibañez's uncle, Olimpo, said his nephew had planned the suicide.

"He was seen washing his long-sleeved white polo shirt and he told his friends it was for his wake," Olimpo told the inquirer.

Spending the night with friends in Nabitac, Laguna, on the eve of the June 19 Laguna Day sports festival, Ibañez appeared to be in good spirits.

"He was in clowning around," Olimpo recalled.

From June 20 to 23, Ibañez started visiting friends he had not seen for sometime. He also started drinking beer, the uncle said.

At 10 a.m. on June 24, Renato found his brother dead in his room.

The suicide notes were undated.

# We have become 'people of the lie'

From page A1

last December. It made me realize that we are made to swallow a daily dose of hypocrisy from our politicians and their hangers-on. Thus we have become, as psychiatrist and author Scott Peck puts it, "people of the lie."

My daughter Kaye was running her second SEA Games race. The five-member ladies cycling team was barely 5 months old. Only two, Marita del Rosario and Baby Marites Bitbit, were original cyclists. The rest—Ani Karina de Leon, Lakambini Alto and Kaye, or Catherine—were triathletes who had been persuaded to shift to cycling, since there was no triathlon event that year.

The team had no illusions of winning. They only wanted the experience and a decent finish. They got both, except Bing, who had gotten caught in a spill started by a Thai competitor. She came in last, but to a thunderous ovation from the crowds lining the street.

I was in tears as I met each one of them at the finish line. They had undergone but a few months of grueling training, and yet performed beyond expectations.

The Philippine contingent won a few medals—a gold in the men's mountain biking event for

Eboy Quiñones; another gold in judo for Gilbert Ramirez; two silvers in the men's road race and individual time trial for Warren Davadilla and Victor Espiritu; and two bronzes in the women's and men's mountain biking for Marites Bitbit and Eric Feliciano.

I could not watch all the events since the venues were scattered. Some, like basketball, were even held in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon). Nevertheless, I heard a lot of praise for our sportsmen.

One story came from my friend Vic Lecaros, our ambassador to Vietnam, who recounted how the Filipinos in the audience had to sing "Bayang Magiliw" a cappella during the awarding ceremonies for judo, because the wrong anthem was played. "We sang at the top of our lungs," Lecaros said. "I never felt so patriotic in my life."

## Sob stories

Unfortunately, I witnessed more frustrations than victories.

Our athletes were treated shabbily by our own officials there. After the games, the Vietnamese organizers made sure we encountered no problems leaving Hanoi by assisting us through the very last X-ray machine at the airport. In contrast, Philippine sports officials hurried past the athletes and coach-

es with nary a smile to queue up for business-class seats.

These officials had stayed in hotels in the city while the athletes were herded into student dormitories at four to five persons per room. In the building where my daughter stayed, two fellow female cyclists had to sleep on the floor in the corridor!

The Air Vietnam attendants were all warm and helpful through the flight from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City. Not a word about the athletes' oversized and overweight bags. It was at the Philippine Airlines desk at the HCM International Airport, Manila-bound at last, that we got the cold shoulder.

A PAL official admonished the athletes for the size of their luggage. Explanations that they were cyclists carrying bikes, bike tires, etc., on top of their personal effects fell on deaf ears. The athletes and coaches had to pay for the extra weight.

The flight took off late, and arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport also late by almost two hours. It was past 11 p.m., but the athletes were instructed to change into their team uniforms. "For the media," the coaches said, obviously anticipating some sort of welcome.

Never mind the media, there wasn't a single government offi-

cial in sight at Naia. A man stood just outside immigration, handing out sampaguita garlands to the "returning heroes."

Last hurdle was the baggage carousel. After 40 minutes, not one of us had collected a single bag. Lo and behold! They had all been left behind in Ho Chi Minh City, including those for which overweight fees had been paid. The PAL staff was only half-apologetic.

The experience left me sleepless for many days, mainly out of complete disgust for the shabby treatment given the athletes and coaches. Obviously, government officials and media organizations deserved the same treatment accorded the likes of Manny Pacquiao and American singer Mandy Moore!

It amazes me how it escapes media that many athletes do not receive the allowances that the government purportedly gives them. It is about time we trashed the "medals" mentality that promotes the stupid mindset that only athletes with a string of successes are worth watching out for. No wonder the banal in Philippine sports is so shallow.

Some athletes point to the huge disparity in the salaries of foreign and local coaches. Sports officials justify this by citing the foreigners' "tremen-

dous expertise." But what good would that be if there are no more athletes to train?

## Tearful testimony

On the flight back to Manila, I sat with a young man who told me what it was like to be a national athlete. A private in the Philippine Army who has won silver medals, he receives a P9,000 allowance on top of his Army salary of about P12,000. Not bad, one might say, for a single person who has no family to support. But for one who needs expensive nutritious food to stay fit?

He said he ate sardines six times a day to meet his protein requirements. Imported food supplements? Forget it.

I asked if he had gone sightseeing in Hanoi. "No," he said, because he had not brought warm clothes, not even a jacket. Couldn't he have bought one with the \$300 personal allowance from GMA? He said he would rather save the money.

He was under heavy pressure to quit cycling and join his brother on a cruise ship, he told me. He figured he could make triple his present earnings if he went on that ship, but no, he said, he loved the sport too much.

He recently won in the Tour of Luzon, he said, and used the prize money to buy a bike that

cost about P130,000. Unfortunately, a car rammed into the new bike during a road accident. He wasn't hurt, but the bike was irreparable.

It took months before the insurance company paid him back. His training suffered because he had to find extra work. I asked if he tried to seek help from the PSC. He said there was no such assistance to be expected.

My niece, Sandra Araullo, is another serious athlete in the family. She has been seeded No. 1 in the under-23 category of the ladies triathlon in the whole of Southeast Asia. Her parents spent huge portions of their savings for her expensive gear and training in New Zealand last summer.

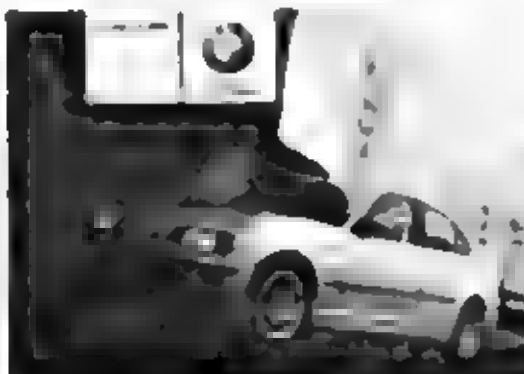
Like all members of our national training pool, Sandra is entitled to an allowance. She was receiving P3,225 a month until April. Actually, she was entitled to P7,500. Where did the other half go? To her fellow athlete who hanged himself. "Had I known," Sandra told me in great sorrow, "I would have gladly given him all of it."

A recent newspaper headline story announced the First Couple's "full support" for athletes bound for the 2005 SEA Games. Let's hope this doesn't turn out to be another lie that we have to live with.





President Macapagal-Arroyo addresses the 13th Philippine Business Conference in Davao City on Thursday.



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BMW 316i	BMW 316i Exec.	BMW 316i Exec.	BMW 316i Exec.	BMW 325i Exec.
2003 Titanium Silver	2004 Oxford Green	2004 Orient Blue	2004 Titanium Silver	2004 Titanium Silver
17,875km, P1,525,000	26,000km, P2,150,000	7,043km, P2,250,000	3,500km, P2,250,000	13,701km, P2,650,000

BMW 316i	BMW 316i	BMW 316i	BMW 316i	BMW 316i
2002 Orient Blue	2003 Titanium Silver	2004 Black Sapphire	2004 Black Sapphire	2004 Black Sapphire
30,000km, P1,450,000	15,000km, P2,650,000	1,994km, P3,500,000	17,313km, P4,350,000	

BMW 316i	BMW 325i	BMW 525i	BMW 525i
1996 Alpine White	1998 Boston Green	1997 Aspen Silver	2000 Cosmos Black
101,361km, P500,000	49,422km, P450,000	82,151km, P1,450,000	42,075km, P1,800,000

BMW 325i	BMW 525i	BMW 525i
1997 Boston Green	1997 Glacier Green	1997 Alpine White
57,534km, P780,000	116,842km, P1,050,000	26,744km, P1,500,000

## GMA asks top 50,000 taxpayers to pay P1M more

From page 4A

their leader," she said.

"I know the pain of suffering the brunt of public disappointment and displeasure. I am not a stranger to unpopularity. But I cannot shirk from the responsibility of prescribing the bitter pill," Ms Arroyo said.

The President said her admission that the country was in serious fiscal crisis was right.

"It is my duty to bring forth the truth and reality we must all face today, that our economy cannot endure for long without getting more revenues from those who can most afford it," she said.

Ms Arroyo's appeal to the top taxpayers came with a warning to tax cheats: "The unpatriotic who engage in corporate and governmental corruption will be identified, publicized, punished. The time for avoiding taxes is over."

### Friendly persuasion

But she said her administration was prepared to begin by using friendly persuasion.

"(O)ur friendly persuasion will consist in inviting the top 50,000 corporate and individual taxpayers to add a million pesos more to what they are paying in a bid to have a strong start," Ms Arroyo said.

The President said that was the time of shared goals and shared burdens. "I am proud of the Filipinos who have shown a deeper sense of community starting from the alumni of Silliman University in Negros Oriental who donated their jewelry in their homecoming followed by government employees of several agencies," she said.

He also thanked businessmen and overseas Filipino workers who wanted to donate to the "Bayanihan Fund" and to members of Congress who are willing to let go of their pork barrel.

### Paring of expenditures

The President said the country needed to pare more than P180 billion through prudent raising of expenditures, better plug on financial leaks, and more rational equitable and effective system of collecting revenues.

She said that apart from the tax measures aimed at generating P80 billion, the government was working on "executive reforms" to raise or save P100 billion, "marking the start of our earnest journey to permanent economic stability."

"The money raised from new revenues must be spent wisely that's why government is working to wipe out waste," she said.

Ms Arroyo said she had been reading the fine print in the budgets of the departments of public works, transportation and education to ensure that they prioritize the construction of roads, ports and school buildings.

"Fiscal discipline, austerity, rationalization—these are the bywords in the Cabinet," she said.

"As for the GOCCs, they are being pruned and whipped into line," she added.

### Limit borrowing

She said the government could not resort to more borrowings to finance its infrastructure and basic services programs.

"And Napocor (National Power Corp.) in particular cannot keep borrowing and borrowing to provide the electric power needed to support our growth requirements," she said.

The President said the country continued to have access to local and foreign financial markets, indicating investor confidence remains high.

But it doesn't mean that we should grab all the offers of those who are lending to us because every borrowing we make is an increase in our deficit," she said.

"Every expenditure financed by borrowing is a contribution to increasing our deficit and we cannot grow based on borrowed funds all the time. Because it will catch up with us, the interest payment will catch up with us. The day will come as it is coming that we are using our budget to pay interest rather than to build infrastructure, roads, ports and airports and other requirements like power plants," she said.

Reports from Dennis Jay C. Santos, Carmelina A. Lucorte and Anthony S. Alleda, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Juliet Labag-Jayakumar in Manila

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# The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

## 2 Americans, Briton kidnapped in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—Gunmen kidnapped two Americans and a Briton from a house in the heart of the Iraqi capital Thursday, the interior ministry and witnesses said.

The three were seized from a two-story house surrounded by a wall in Baghdad's al-Mansour neighborhood at dawn, said Col. Adnan Abdel-Rahman, a ministry official. Rahman had initially said the three were all British nationals.

He said they were employed by Gulf Services Co., a Middle East-based construction firm.

A US Embassy spokesperson speaking on condition of anonymity could not immediately confirm the report but said officials were investigating. A British diplomat in Baghdad was also unable to confirm any details.

A police official who asked that his name not be used said a car was missing from the house where the hostages were believed to have been kidnapped. He said the three were apparently in the garden when the attack took place and that there was no sign of any fighting.

Neighbors said they heard two vehicles drive up to the house around dawn and later noticed that the normally closed sliding iron gate was open, so they called the police. They declined to give their names and said they didn't know exactly who was living there.

Several foreign contracting companies and security firms are based in the relatively wealthy al-Mansour neighborhood.

Insurgents waging a 17-month insurgency in Iraq have

kidnapped more than 100 foreigners in a bid to destabilize the interim authorities and drive coalition forces from the country. Many have been executed.

At least four Westerners are currently being held hostage in Iraq.

Two Italian women, Simona Pari and Simona Torretta, both 29, were abducted Sept. 7 by armed men from their offices in central Baghdad. They were working on school and water projects for the aid group "Un Ponte Per..." ("A Bridge To..."). There is no word on their fate.

Two French reporters, Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot, were kidnapped last month by a militant group that demanded France rescind a ban on the wearing of head scarves in public schools. Paris refused and the law has already gone into effect. AP



### ENDURING WORLD WONDER

Indian gardeners use oxen to cut grass in front of the Taj Mahal in the tourist city of Agra, Sept. 16. India is preparing to celebrate later in the month the 350th anniversary of the Taj Mahal, the 17th-century marble mausoleum built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan for his wife. REUTERS

### EMOTIONAL MOMENT

Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, cries during his speech where he was remembering meeting with members of the Japanese community in Brazil, at the Historical Museum of Japanese Immigration in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Sept. 15. Brazil is home to one of the largest Japanese communities outside Japan, estimated at 1.4 million. AP



## Hillary on Bill's health: We feel blessed

By Marc Humbert

ALBANY, New York—Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton said "we feel blessed" former President Bill Clinton's artery blockage was discovered in time for him to have successful heart bypass surgery.

"The relief is just overwhelming," she said Wednesday. The former first lady said her husband is "really doing well."

In her first extensive interview since the medical crisis began almost two weeks ago, Clinton told The Associated Press the former president is "following the orders of doctors, nurses and everyone else who told him what he should do to begin slowly gaining his strength back."

Clinton said she and daughter Chelsea are taking turns watching over his recovery "to make sure he just continues to take it easy." She said the recovery should take from

six to eight weeks.

"We have been at his side literally and figuratively" since he went into the hospital Sept. 3. He had quadruple heart bypass surgery three days later and was released from New York Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia in New York City last Friday.

"I'm on my way back to Chapin right now to assume my duty," she said late Tuesday afternoon as she spoke on a cell phone, headed from Washington to Westchester County, north of New York City, where the former president is recuperating at home.

Clinton said her husband is disappointed he can't hit the campaign trail on behalf of Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, but that she will try to pick up the slack.

"We had some (campaign) events we were both going to cover, that I will cover alone, and others that I will pick up," she said.

"But I'm also very focused on helping our Senate candidates and a couple of House candidates."

Clinton said she knew her husband had been having "a little shortness of breath" during recent workouts.

"And, like most wives, I said, 'Why don't you go and see about it?'" she recalled Tuesday. "And he said, 'Oh, you know, I think it's just I'm not in good enough shape. I just need to work out more.'"

"And then we had the pains when he was at rest and that was the wake-up call," she said.

"The seriousness totally came out of the blue," Clinton said. "The fact that he had a problem of this significance was just not even contemplated by either of us."

"It turned out to be a blessing in disguise, which we all know now, because one of the things that I have learned is that a third of the people have heart attacks and die,

and a third have a heart attack and live with some damage from that. And a third are lucky, as Bill was, to have some warning signals and be able to deal with it," she said.

The former first lady said the family was confident the surgery would go well.

"It was probably more difficult for Chelsea and me than him because he was focused and occupied on what he needed to do to get ready (for surgery) and we were the ones waiting, which I think in many respects a wholly separate stress," she said.

Still, Clinton said she did have some concerns when he went to the operating room.

"As he said himself when he called into (CNN's) Larry King on Friday night, you have to be a little scared," she said.

The former first lady said she had a message for everyone in the wake of the experience. AFP

## 10 killed by Israel troops in W. Bank

NABLUS, West Bank—Ten Palestinians, including a young schoolgirl, were killed in separate Army raids in the West Bank Wednesday as Israel tightened security for the beginning of the Jewish new year holiday.

Six people, including the 11-year-old girl, were killed during an early morning offensive in the northern city of Nablus before four militants were shot dead when special forces swooped on a garage in the nearby town of Jenin, Palestinian medical and security sources said.

The victims of the Nablus operation, four of whom were members of a group loyal to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, were shot dead after troops had encircled a house in the Old City area.

Around 20 jeeps and tanks took part in the operation, with aerial cover from an Israeli helicopter.

"A soldier on lookout had spotted a group of armed Palestinians who then forced their way into a house owned by an 80-year-old man," the Army's regimental commander in Nablus said.

"We called on them to surrender but they refused and then tried to flee from the house, opening fire," added the colonel, speaking on condition of anonymity. AFP

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Opec tries to calm market

VIENNA—Opec declared Wednesday it would boost its official output by one million barrels per day from November in a bid to reassure the market and ease soaring prices. "The conference decided to raise the Opec production ceiling, excluding Iraq, by one million barrels per day with effect from November 2004 in order to bring prices down further to a more sustainable level," Opec spokesperson Omar Ibrahim told a news conference in Vienna. "As long as the price is still high we would like to give the signal, a psychological signal, that we want the price down," Opec president Purnomo Yusgiantoro said. But the market was unmoved by the announcement, with analysts saying the new quota was still below Opec's real output of some 28 million barrels daily and questioning the cartel's power to impact on the price. The price of the Opec basket of seven crude oils is around \$38. AFP

### Ex-lover of Diana released

LONDON—Two months after he was arrested for suspected possession of cocaine, James Hewitt, the former lover of Princess Diana, received a caution on Wednesday for the offense. On July 21, Hewitt, 46, was arrested and detained for one day at a police station on suspicion of being in possession of cocaine outside a trendy west London wine bar. Hewitt, a former cavalry officer, was branded a "loves rat" by the British press after publishing a book in which he discussed his relationship with the princess, who died in a car accident in 1997. In December 2002, Hewitt was again the subject of unfavorable publicity when he said he would sell love letters the princess had written to him during the 1991 Gulf War. AFP

### Musharraf to remain Army chief

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf will remain the Army chief, Information Minister Sheikh Rashid announced Wednesday even though the general had pledged he would relinquish the post this year. "I think there is no need to amend the constitution," Rashid said, dismissing demands by powerful Islamist groups that Musharraf's continuation as Army chief while remaining the president would be unconstitutional. Musharraf, who seized power in a bloodless coup in October 1999, said last year he would give up his military post by the end of December this year under a deal reached with the Islamist Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal alliance. AFP

### Bangladesh teacher cuts students' ears

DHAKA—A teacher in northern Bangladesh cut the ears of 17 students with scissors to discipline them, news reports said Thursday. Abdul Majid Sardar, a teacher at a Muslim school in Bogra district, said he was angry with his charges because they had stopped reciting Islamic verses when he stepped out of the classroom for a stroll, the Prothom Alo and Bhorer Kagoj newspapers reported. Two of the students—aged 6 and 9—needed stitches, while 15 others received first-aid, the reports said. The school's head stopped Sardar after hearing the students' screams. Relatives of the schoolchildren also rushed in, and beat the teacher with sticks, the papers said. AFP

### UK fox hunts banned

LONDON—Supporters of fox hunting stormed Britain's parliament Wednesday and clashed with police in the streets, but failed to stop lawmakers from voting by an overwhelming margin to ban the blood sport. Debate was suspended for 30 minutes after five pro-hunt protesters, in the first incident of its kind in modern times, burst into the House of Commons chamber—the second dramatic security breach in London in three days. The five, wearing T-shirts depicting Prime Minister Tony Blair with devil's horns, were arrested—while outside, riot police with batons and tear gas kept back 10,000 furious pro-hunt demonstrators hurling bottles and fireworks. AFP

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# OPINION

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## Taxing the crisis

**T**HE POLARIZING positions on new taxes do not augur well for the swift resolution of the fiscal crisis. The more Malacañang insists on new taxes, the more Congress becomes adamant in resisting them. The hardening on both sides may indicate the initial dramatics that usually characterizes any tax debate. Or it may show that either side has no appreciation of the rut the Philippines is in.

**EDITORIAL** Whichever, the stalemate is bad for the country. There seems to be a tendency, particularly on the part of Congress, to put up stumbling blocks to any executive measure to contain the fiscal contagion by tax reform and new tax measures. While there is basis for lawmakers' calls for plugging the tax loopholes and checking the worsening indebtedness of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), the same lawmakers are notoriously issuing blanket rejection of the most minimum tax measures coming from the executive. Sen. Joker Arroyo, for one, has used hyperbole and alarmist warnings to oppose any and all new tax measures. He has said that the new taxes may bring about President Macapagal-Arroyo's downfall.

It is true that public opinion is against new taxes. A recent survey showed that 78 percent of the population is vehemently against new taxes. But lest our lawmakers use the survey results as approbation of their legislative wisdom, they should be reminded that no survey would ever show that the public pulse is for taxes. If, as the proverbial wisdom says, that the only certain things in life are taxes and death, then a similar public survey on death would also yield the same result as the survey on new taxes. Nobody wants either.

Taxes—and death—are therefore inevitable. But one can deal with these negative realities positively—that is, with grace and dignity. Surely, Congress and the executive should come together to solve the fiscal crisis. And any approach would have to do the following things: plug the tax loophole, stop the bleeding of GOCCs and streamline the bureaucracy, reduce or abolish lawmakers' discretionary funds (pork barrel) and enact new tax measures. For Congress to insist that the executive undertake the first two things before they act on the third and the fourth is wishful thinking. The four initiatives should be calibrated and coordinated.

In the first place, there's no rational basis for Congress to reject offhand the tax measures proposed by the executive. Increasing the excise taxes on tobacco and liquor is only practical because both are sin products whose consumption must be regulated. In the same way, widening the value-added tax to cover lucrative professions is only practical. Strictly speaking, widening the VAT coverage is not a new tax measure; it's merely improving on a tax measure and plugging the loophole.

There are other tax measures that Congress may consider. It may increase the motor vehicle registration fee and even increase the specific tax on petroleum. The latter may come later when world petroleum prices have stabilized, but it is a wise measure if only to control the environmental effects of fossil fuels. Increasing vehicle registration fees can be immediately implemented if only to regulate the car market as well as check the environmental impact of cars.

Other tax measures that are well thought out and practical should likewise be considered. It would also help if Congress firms up its political will on giving up entirely the pork barrel of its members. That will immediately save the government P20 billion that will otherwise go to useless projects as well as line the pockets of many corrupt lawmakers.

As for the off-budget liabilities of government, particularly the servicing of the debts of GOCCs, the executive must resolve to cut costs. It must begin by cutting the salaries of executives of GOCCs whether they are making profits or reporting losses.

Now Congress may say the executive should bite the bullet first before it cuts its pork barrel and pass new tax measures. This is a condition that does not hold water because whatever it says, Congress is a strong part of the fiscal problem. If it continues to hem and haw on new tax measures, it should at least cut its pork barrel so that the savings could go to government operations and programs. Congress should realize it's on the same boat as the rest of the nation, and the boat is sinking partly because of its own inaction.

## A touch of irony in DFP's chocolates deal

THERE is a touch of irony in the charges filed against Duty Free Philippines and the Philippine Tourism Authority for awarding the concession to supply chocolates and confectioneries to Eastern Duty Free Management Services. The supply contract did not go through public bidding, charged the DFP Employees Association in a case it filed with the Ombudsman. Two congressmen called for a House investigation of all the DFP concession contracts.

And that is where the irony lies. The man allegedly behind the moves to block the chocolates contract is said to be businessman William Tieng, known as the "Duty Free King" for his virtual monopoly of DFP contracts spanning four administrations: Aquino, Ramos, Estrada and now Arroyo. Tieng holds the DFP's supply contracts for supermarket, fashion, bed and bath, fragrances and warehousing, among others, as well as a long-term lease for Fiesta Mall in Parañaque, the DFP's flagship outlet. Tieng craves the chocolates/confectioneries contract, too.

The fact that just one man and his partners were able to secure so much business—the lion's share of the business in fact—from the DFP over the course of several administrations, "said Zialcita in his privilege speech, "this indeed means that a probe is urgently needed."

Thus, by trying to block the chocolates contract that he did not get, Tieng's own contracts will now be investigated by the House. Zialcita's call for a probe of all DFP contracts was referred to the committee on tourism headed by Bohol Rep. Edgardo Chato, who expressed "shock" at the volume of Tieng's businesses with the DFP. There's now a snowballing move, spearheaded by Representatives Monico Puentebella and Art Defensor, to investigate Tieng's "unbelievable" virtual monopoly of DFP contracts for the last 17 years.

Tieng and the DFPEA are assailing the chocolates contract because it did not go

### As I See It

Neal H. Cruz



through public bidding, but all the other contracts with Tieng did not go through public bidding either. Since it started operating in 1987 DFP contracts have never had to go through public bidding because of its specialized nature as a duty free supplier. This position has been upheld by the Ombudsman in cases filed by disgruntled parties who were unsuccessful in winning contested contracts, and by the Office of Government Corporate Counsel in several opinions.

"I have been assured by DFP officials that the chocolates supply contract is above-board and would stand the test of scrutiny," said Zialcita. "The contract did not veer from the DFP's long-established protocols for these types of arrangements, which were in the form of negotiated contracts that were reviewed and approved by the DFP management before scrutiny and ratification by the PTA board. In fact, in this particular transaction, a rival prospective supplier, Tieng's Winning Touch Corp., made a counter-offer before the PTA board which Eastern Duty Free matched, thereby improving the deal for the DFP by some P180 million."

Under the EDF contract, the government is guaranteed \$8 million in annual fees over the next four years and P6 million in monthly rentals. Full operating expenses will be borne by the EDF and no DFP employee will be displaced. The EDF also committed to buy all of the DFP's existing inventory of chocolates and confectioneries amounting to some \$6 million, thereby freeing the DFP from all capital requirements.

The Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) faxed a letter an-

swering the exposé of former Sen. Francisco Tatad, reported here last Wednesday, assailing the purchase of public land for P100.8 million in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

"The transaction was completely legal and above-board," said DOTC director for legal affairs Luis Manuel Virtucio. "The deal was approved in June 2002 when Pantaleon Alvarez was still the DOTC secretary."

Virtucio said that the land was classified as "alienable and disposable land of the public domain" and had been occupied since the 1920s and 1930s by private persons, thus giving them the right to own the property by "reason of acquisitive prescription under the law."

The price paid for the land, Virtucio added, "was based on fair market value. Originally, the government offered to pay the landowners a price based on the zonal valuation established by the Bureau of Internal Revenue. When the landowners rejected the offer, they agreed on the fair market value in accordance with Republic Act 8974. The fair market value was determined by Cuervo Appraisers, an independent property appraiser."

Virtucio added that the land in Iloilo (priced at only P60 per sq m), which was acquired for the expansion of the Iloilo airport, could not be compared with the land in Puerto Princesa (price: P900 per sq m), because the former was farmland, far from the city proper. On the other hand, the Palawan property was within the city proper of Puerto Princesa, only five minutes by tricycle from the city center.

"If the final offer was not accepted, then the property would have been subjected to expropriation proceedings through the Office of the Solicitor General," Virtucio said.

He further explained that all the properties acquired by the DOTC for the airport development project had been identified by the DOTC and Asian Development Bank's accredited consultant through a "parcellary survey."

## Human rights and the folly of the 'Asean way'

### PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan



Remember too how President Fide. Ramos tried desperately to scurry a UP forum on East Timor in 1994. The forum was organized by the Filipino-led Asia Pacific Conference on East Timor (APCET) to call attention to the former Portuguese colony that was invaded and annexed by Indonesia, followed by two decades of pacification in which an estimated 100,000 to 250,000 individuals lost their lives.

When the APCET organizers couldn't be pressured to yield, a shadowy NGO suddenly asked a Quezon City court to stop the UP forum. The Philippines-Indonesia Society, formed just days before the case was filed (shades of Pirmal), won a restraining order from the trial court, but which the Supreme Court later lifted. The APCET prevailed, but not for lack of trying.

Foreign guests to that forum however were turned away at the Naia. One of them was Jose Ramos Horta, who just the other day was in the Philippines as the foreign minister of a newly independent Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

The Philippines has also remained silent on the looting, beating, burning of homes, and rape of women, in mob attacks against ethnic Chinese in Indonesia from May 14 to 16, 1998. The stage for those genocidal attacks was set after a top-level general, in response to a financial crisis, called upon large conglomerates to bring their dollars back from abroad, with implicit accusations against wealthy Chinese. Soon thereafter, government and religious leaders spoke of the "eradication of rats" who were not patriotic in times of national crisis, in rhetoric reminiscent of Hitler's "final solution." The Philippines would have been one of the few voices in Southeast Asia with the moral standing to speak, because our record on non-

discrimination though not sterling is certainly exemplary compared to that of our neighbors Malaysia and Indonesia.

Strangely enough, it was President Joseph Estrada, notorious for being oblivious to protocol, who insisted on meeting with the wife and family of fallen Malaysian leader Anwar Ibrahim, over the protestations of our learned diplomats. He insisted in true Erap-style that he knew the family personally so what's the big deal about him meeting with them?

Anwar was heir-apparent to long-time Malaysian leader Mahathir Mohamad, until his fall from grace. The former firebrand of Malaysia's radical student movement was jailed on charges of sodomy and corruption. Mahathir has since stepped down, and last week, the sodomy charges were thrown out by an appeals court. Anwar is now free, but is subject to a five-year ban from public office due to his separate conviction for corruption. As the world applauds new Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's vision of a kinder and gentler Malaysia, the unspoken premise is that Malaysia's courts still genuflect before political power—unspoken because the world, alas, might be turning into Asean softies, too.

We must return to first principles. We must remember that when we were fighting to restore our democracy, we turned to the international community for succor, saying that the violation of human rights anywhere is an injustice everywhere. Had other nations snubbed Ninoy Aquino and other heroes and denied them sanctuary, had other nations not sent observers to the 1986 snap elections that led to Edsa I, in other words, had other nations behaved toward us then, as today we behave toward the people of Myanmar, the ethnic Chinese in Indonesia, the East Timorese, the Anwar in Malaysia and elsewhere, our Edsa I would not have happened.

And I thought repaying old debts was part of the Corleone-style, touchy-feely, Oprah-warm Asean niceness?

Comments to: raul.pangalangan@up.edu.ph



# Spending priorities

## COMMENTARY

Anna Marie A. Karaos  
Institute on Church and Social Issues

FISCAL crisis or not, the problem looks serious enough for citizens and the government to agree that new taxes and public spending cuts cannot be avoided. The sooner we can accept this fact, the earlier we can take the necessary measures to cushion their impact on those for whom the shocks could be truly devastating.

Among the measures that have been proposed to help curb our chronic fiscal problem is a reduction of the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) to be distributed to local governments. Unlike perhaps the new taxes the government might impose, cutting the local governments' IRA is likely to fall harder on the poor.

Since its introduction through the 1991 Local Government Code, the IRA has been a good mechanism for making the distribution of nationally collected revenues more equitable across administrative regions and provinces. It has also afforded local governments down to the smallest barangay access to resources for supporting development projects which cannot be funded otherwise.

One apparent advantage of the IRA is that it seems to be accessible to poor constituents. IRA funds have been responsible for constructing many badly needed community infrastructure in poor rural and urban communities. A growing number of poor areas now have deep wells, day care centers, barangay health facilities, footpaths and drainage because of the IRA. While it may be true that some IRA funds have not been wisely spent, more and more citizens and people's organizations have learned to access funds from local government budgets and make good use of them.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has indicated that she wants the legislators' Countrywide Development Funds (CDF) to be used in accordance with her 10-point agenda of governance. What she has not mentioned is how far she is prepared to protect the poorest and most vulnerable sectors from the impending budget cuts and to push for a poverty-focused spending agenda. Off-

hand, given the present sorry state of education, nutrition and health provision in the country, it is hard to imagine how these social services can absorb any further cuts without inflicting short and long-term costs on the country's human capital. From experience, when governments of developing countries decide to reduce public spending, public services used mainly by the poor suffer the biggest cuts.

As the economists of the University of the Philippines pointed out in their recent paper discussing the roots and possible remedies of the present fiscal problem, simply maintaining the present level of social spending would effectively result in a reduction in real terms per capita, given the steady rise in population. Knowing this, policymakers need to be more conscious of their duty to protect the poor from being made to sacrifice more than what they are doing already.

Here local governments play a crucial role. Given the proper tools, they are well placed to determine more accurately what the spending priorities of government should be if it wants to have the greatest impact on poverty or at least protect the poor from the shocks of fiscal austerity. The government's fiscal austerity program would do well to mobilize local governments in diagnosing what services are most badly needed, who the most vulnerable groups are and where they are.

A number of tools on poverty mapping and diagnosis exist. Some local governments have also devised their own tools and approaches for tracking the situation of their poor constituents. The National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) for one, has made available to local governments a

simplified poverty diagnostic tool which consolidates several previously used monitoring tools like the MBN (Minimum Basic Needs) and the CBPIMS (Community-Based Poverty Indicators Monitoring System).

At a time when government needs to make sure that it makes the best use of every centavo it spends, it is important that welfare targets are clearly spelled out and that ways of monitoring these targets are not only in place but are also easily accessible to ordinary citizens for purposes of exacting accountability.

In this sense, the local governments' IRA has an advantage over legislators' pork barrel because in general there are clearer and more transparent criteria for the use of IRA funds for development projects. More importantly, a growing number of citizens' groups, including development NGOs and community-based organizations, have learned to access development funds from their local governments tapping into IRA resources. Some of them are participating in local development planning processes and take part in identifying projects meant to benefit poorer communities. Others have gone into partnerships with local governments to set up poverty-tracking data-bases and poverty-focused planning processes to ensure that local development plans and projects do take account of their impact on the poor in a direct way.

Although there may be these institutional mechanisms at the local level that can foster a more rational and accountable use of development funds coming from the national budget, we cannot also be blind to the fact that for many local governments, personnel costs and general services dominate the local budget while social services get a shrinking share. But herein lies the challenge for ordinary citizens and their organizations to be more involved in determining the spending priorities of their local governments. Let us do this now and make the IRA work for those who need it most.

## A life in dance

### AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



Maryknoll had shaped the insecure child I was into a rather resourceful adolescent. When I entered Maryknoll I worried about how I'd manage as the youngest of the Reyes brood. The eldest, Alice, was selected Most Outstanding Student with a consistently high academic record in spite of work outside as a professional artist. My second sister, Betty, was glee club president and head of a musical band called Las Desafinadas. My third sister, Cecile, headed a singing group called The Hush A Bys. My fourth sister, Denise, headed a dance group and a singing group called The Pattern People. What was I going to be? I was a non-entity, a no-sing, no-dance Reyes girl.

As luck would have it, in Grade 4, a class choreographer was needed for a school activity. I got the position through sheer name recall. I thought: If Maryknoll believed in me, I must have hope. I accepted the challenge to compensate for my unflattering report card. The experience changed my perspective. I could be anything. All I needed was courage. For my work, I got a letter of thanks from Sister Miriam Thomas herself (long-time president of Maryknoll under whom Miriam College is named) which I proudly keep to this day.

THIS was apparently the beginning of a calling in dance. After that I set up my own dance group. It's funny I cannot recall what we named it. I do know we managed to appear on television once. A more flattering discovery was a "fair for writing" that a composition teacher announced I had before class one day. Still, my plucky spirit produced even more errant acts. I cut classes when I was bored. My friends and I trekked to watch bold movies in Aurora Boulevard. We smoked un-

side the vacant school buses parked safely away from the teachers' room.

One day I was caught playing hooky. My mother and I were called to the principal's office and there we were told that I would be suspended for a week. I sat stoically as tears flowed. Again a new perspective emerged. I crack jokes and people laugh. I dance and people applaud. I play hooky and I am punished. The seeds I plant produce the crops I harvest. This was a lesson from Maryknoll that I embraced well into the future.

IN 1972 Edna Reyes, the hypothetical princess, died in a mystical way. Alice changed my name to Edna Vida, and it was she who took over to live a daunting life in the performing arts.

Dance can be compared to an intricate spider web and I was trapped on my first flight as an insect. At first I took one class a day with two other students in the adult beginners' class. We had a wonderful teacher who molded us as if we were his most cherished works of art. Again I thought: If this man can believe so much in me, I must have hope.

Suddenly I was taking two classes a day. Someone mentioned high extensions. When I arrived home every night I lengthened my legs to make them go higher. I did my back-bends when no one was looking. Someone noticed my splits. I stretched my legs even more. Every morning I prayed: Dear God, I need a miracle. Please make me a good dancer, a very good dancer, the best dancer in this company. I wanted to be a ballerina and, at 17, I was too old. It was an impossible dream that only fools might have.

But God amused me. During that summer workshop I took the place of a scholar in a leading role done by Alice herself. My partner was a new member of the company, an upcoming male star. His name was Nonooy Froilan. The rehearsal was appalling. Alice, it seemed, was determined to prove she had made a mistake in casting me. She scolded me for not hearing the music, for being too slow and uncoordinated. It was a most humbling experience... If success meant total humiliation, I was very successful.

# Kitchen Spanish

"SIGUE suya conmigo para habla bueno-bueno con aquel mi tia." That's a line from "Cuentos Philipinos" (Filipino Stories) by Jose Montero y Vidal, first published in 1876 and now available in an English translation from the Ateneo de Manila.

Readers who speak Spanish know that the grammar and syntax aren't quite right but that was the version being used by the indios, the natives of the Philippines. Translated, it means: "All right, follow me so you can have a good talk with my aunt."

There's much you can learn from the book about daily life during those times, but what most fascinated me were the matches of conversation in the stories, giving us an opportunity to eavesdrop on something called "español de cocina," that "kitchen Spanish," the term used by the Spaniards to refer to the natives' version of Spanish, so labeled because it was associated with the household help.

## Creole languages

As in many places occupied by foreign powers over a long period, several areas in the Philippines developed what linguists call creole languages, hybrid languages that combine the colonizers' words with local ones.

The Summer Institute of Languages' (SIL) website (www.ethnologue.com), one of the most comprehensive databases of the world's languages, lists Chavacano as a creole language in the Philippines. Also called "bamboo Spanish" by the Americans, Chavacano has a predominantly Spanish vocabulary but with a Philippine-type grammatical structure. SIL lists several variations of Chavacano, spoken in Manila, Cavite, Davao, Cotabato and, of course, Zamboanga. The line I quoted from Montero's book is probably an example of Ermitaño (or Ermiteno), spoken in Manila.

Montero's book is filled with Spanish, Tagalog and Chavacano terms, giving color and life to his stories and glimpses into how languages were developing at that time. We learn that Chinese food was already popular then, at least in Manila, with people able to go to pansiterias serving, what else, but panis as well as, note the Spanish spelling, *tajo* and *jopa* (noodles, bean curd and mongo cakes).

As with the 21st century Filipino, clothes were important, brought from *sinamay*ers, vendors who sold not just the abaca-silk blend called *sinamay*, but also clothes like *tapis*, *guinatas*, *cambayas* and *camisas de piña*. The *sinamay*ers were usually Chinese mestizos, who were said to "love to dress well and who by nature delight in festivities, pleasures and lively occasions."

## Republica de chichirico

Merrymaking was described as "*gaudeamus*," a Latin term actually meaning "let us rejoice." To mark special occasions, whether graduating from school or a death in the family, there would be a *carpasun*, which today means "the end" but which in the 19th century also referred to a dance—and did they dance, from the graceful *balatan* of the Visayas to the frenzied *habanera* borrowed from Cuba.

Gambling was already popular, including betting on horse races and a host of card games: *monte*, *liampo*, *pangungus* and *tapa-diablo*. We learn that the Spaniards were often at the mercy of their cooks, who would gamble away the marketing money.

The cooks and houseboys were called *bata*, child. Strangely, *niño* and *niña*, originally referring to a little boy or little girl in Spanish, had evolved to become terms of endearment in the Philippines, used to refer even to grandmothers and grandfathers!

We learn how race is an important divider, with Montero's characters often identified according to specific racial categories. His first story's heroine, Enriqueta, is described as an *española filipina*, the child of a peninsular father (a Spaniard born in Spain) and a *filipina*, a term reserved at that time for Spaniards born in the Philippines.

A young single woman was called a *dalaga* while her male counterpart was a *bagong tao*, a new person. Alternatively, the Spanish term *soltero* was used to refer to bachelors.

We read of a vain breed of such *solteros*, especially the men from small towns who go off to study in Manila and then return home transformed, dressed like Europeans and more: "... they look at their boots when walking and speak in a pompous way although unable to rid themselves of the habit of pronouncing F as P and vice-versa." The pretensions to wealth and good breeding are described by a quaint Spanish term: "*chichirico*."

Life in Manila was expensive, so to imagine some of these rural dandies grouping themselves, not into a *barkada* but a *republica* (of *chichirico*?), so they could share the rental costs, expenses at the *polenque* (party) or *tiangis* ( flea market) maybe even their *camisa de piña*.

## Chino español?

From Montero's book, we see that the Philippines in the 19th century was a linguistic hive, the result of an intermingling of different cultures. Particularly intriguing was the way Hokkien or Minnan Chinese, the language spoken by immigrants from Fujian, was fascinating itself into the conversations of the natives and into kitchen Spanish.

The line I used to begin today's column was taken from a conversation between a Chinese man named Chang and Quicay (yes, nickname for Francisco), a cigarrera or a woman working in a cigar factory.

Chang, a ladies' man apparently, had noticed Quicay and began following (these days, maybe stalking) her. She notices and asks him, "*Cosa quiere suya conmigo* (What do you want with me)?" to which he answers, "*Mia quiere platitico* (I wish to speak with you)."

Now, this is indeed bamboo Spanish, and I mean "Chinese Spanish" here, with the "i" in Spanish words changed to an "ti," as we see with the word "*quiere*" (to wish) becoming "*quieiti*."

That's not all. When Quicay asks Chang why he wants to speak with her, he gets quite direct, explaining that he found her to be "*magandan dalaga*," a pretty woman. Flattered Quicay exclaims, "*Abat!*" Chang takes that as a cue to further affirm, in 19th century Chinese Tagalog, that she is beautiful. "*icaco marigat*."

Quicay, who is as *kikay* as a coquette could get, replies "*Kansia*," which is the Hokkien term for "Thank you" (actually *kamsia*), telling us some Chinese terms were familiar even to a cigar factory worker.

Chang is emboldened by Quicay's responses to his overtures: "*Mia quiere mucho con saya y tiene cuantas para puede compra saya y condonga*." That was a rather audacious proposition: "I like you very much and I have the money (*cuantas*!) to buy you a skirt and a carriage."

Chang the *bolero* apparently gets his way as Quicay offers the "*habla bueno-bueno*" with her aunt. (I wonder, *tia* or *tia-tia*?) Bueno-bueno, get the book at National Bookstore and read to find out what happened not just to Chang and Quicay but to the other protagonists in the short stories, from a Jolo sultana to the pirate Lamahang. Keep an eye out for the dynamism in languages but note, too, how the characters—bored expatriates and scheming businessmen, martyred wives and feckless husbands—seem to endure through time.



PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

ONE OF the "Amazing Alumna" awardees in the recent Maryknoll Alumni Homecoming was Edna Vida Reyes-Froilan, former soloist and assistant company manager of Ballet Philippines (formerly the CCP Dance Company) who took up choreography, writing, painting and performing after she hung up her dancing shoes.

Edna is a batchmate in HS Class '72 of Maryknoll, one of the legendary and notorious "Rotten Apples" who have managed, through the decades, to make up for the sorrows we caused our teachers and the nuns by turning out to be "interesting" women in the mold of the moving spirits of the Maryknoll Order.

When informed that our class was nominating her for the "Amazing Alumna" award, Edna prepared the following write-up, a summing up of a life dedicated to the pursuit of artistry and excellence, if not always through the straight and narrow road, but through the crooked path of serendipity, contradiction, creativity and courage. Here's Edna's account of "My Life after Maryknoll."

(Because of space constraints, I'll be reprinting excerpts from Edna's account in two installments.)

I WANTED to take up journalism after I graduated from high school but my mother revealed her secret plans for my future. I was going to be a dancer, not a writer. I was going to Philippine Women's University, not Maryknoll College. I was going to dance for the CCP Dance Company (now Ballet Philippines) which my eldest sister, Alice Reyes, founded and headed.

The four years I spent in high school were all about dodging this forthcoming tragedy. Yes, I led a bubblegum dance group in Maryknoll that performed in school events and, yes, I had a stint as a cheerleader. But that didn't mean I was qualified to join a professional ballet company. The summer dance workshops I was forced to take at the CCP established a distressing fact: a future for me in dance was bleak. In ballet class I looked pathetic beside the ballerinas... I didn't have technique and coordination in modern dance. I was a miserable wannabe who didn't even want to be.

## The national budget for 1899

NOW that Congress is scrutinizing the national budget submitted by the executive branch with a fine-tooth comb, I cannot help but look back into the past to see how we have developed in terms of expenditures or what are considered expenses of the republic. The summary of expenditures for 1899 is quite intriguing since the figures did not reach billions like they do today.

The First Session dealt with "general obligations" and yet the allowance for personnel in Congress was left blank, although supplies were pegged at P9,585. For the Supreme Court personnel was P21,078 and supplies, P5,000. There was a provision for passage money and salaries of civil employees who travel by water amounting to P12,000. Those who travel on land or on foot didn't seem to have been reckoned. Then as now there was a provision for "emergency appropriations" for "unforeseen expenses" in the amount of P13,200.

The Department of Foreign Affairs had a budget for the Office of the Secretary of P3,240 for personnel and P1,200 for supplies. What is intriguing here is that "unforeseen expenses" of the diplomatic corps were pegged at P60,000, while P12,000 allocated for the Archive of Foreign and Special Affairs was placed under "emergency" and "unforeseen expenses." One could say that the founding fathers inserted items in the budget that were not clear or not itemized.

The Office of the Interior Affairs Secretary had appropriations for personnel and supplies like everyone else, but it also had a P10,000 budget for "transportation and maintenance of recruits" and funds for Penal Institutions, salaries and expenses for prisons. The budget for unforeseen expenses was lower than that in Foreign Affairs at P6,000.

One of the biggest appropriations was for the War and Navy Department, and this is under-

## LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



standable since the First Republic was waging a war against the United States. What was different in this budget was that there were allocations for military household of the President, P4,680; President's Escort P816; President's Guard P2,034, and Pampanga Mounted Guerrillas, P1,056. There were allocations for a Sanitary Brigade, hospitals, personnel of 33 battalions, rations and even pensions for deeds of war. The budget for emergency and unforeseen expenses was quite high at P1,795,680, compared to those for other departments.

The Treasury Department had allocations for expenses for transfer of funds, P6,200; cost of stamped articles, P10,000; and printing expenses, P60,000. Would you believe that they gave commissions for collection of the following: city taxes, P3,100; industrial taxes, P12,460; war taxes, P202,500; Chinese poll-tax, P6,000; and even the sale of articles under a government monopoly, P4,000?

Were there real commissions or incentives or tax breaks? We cannot tell from the budget, but surely there is some other document that explains how this was computed and given out.

The war tax was quite large and though I would like to believe that this was raised out of patriotic fervor, there were some documented complaints from citizens asking the president to look into anomalies in the collection of the war

tax, that to some was not voluntary but forced and could be seen as extortion.

Another surprising item in the Treasury budget was a provision for the refund or return of money unduly collected under closed estimates with no figure given. I also cannot make out what they mean by "participants in fines imposed by competent authority P5,000." Unforeseen and emergency expenses were pegged at P12,000.

Education was under a Department of Public Instruction that was given a total of P35,468 for personnel, supplies and "scientific, artistic, special and literary institutions," whatever that means. No breakdown of the expenses was given, and we can now ask whether schools remained operational during the Filipino-American War.

Communications and Public Works also had a budget that was smaller than the military's and pegged at P361,366 for personnel, supplies, surveys and new works for railways, waters, rivers, canals, highways, bridges, lighthouses and even a meteorological observatory!

Last but not least, we have the Department of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce which had a total budget of P21,688 covering personnel, supplies, model farms, forestry and mines.

Reading the budget for 1899 may not be a favorite pastime but it illustrates how simpler life was a century ago. The 1899 budget could be read in one sitting unlike the present budget that is as thick as a phone book.

The 2004 budget will be read by a future historian first as a record of expenses, but also as a way to understand the challenges and concerns of our times.

Comments are welcome at [ocampo@ateneo.edu](mailto:ocampo@ateneo.edu)

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## Focus on solving the problem

THE NATIONAL budget deficit has long been a public concern. The crisis alarmed the nation after economists warned that our economy could collapse in the next two years. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' call for "collective sacrifice" in order to help the country survive the financial crisis sounds noble. So is the appeal to "give cash to the government."

However, we must not lose sight of the real issue that should be addressed. Let us not blind ourselves to what seems

to be a heroic deed. Let us focus on the bigger picture. Let us deal directly with the root of the problem.

The truth is our country has enough financial resources, considering the numerous taxes the government is collecting from us. The problem lies not in the lack of funds but on how the government spends its resources. The government does not need more money. It needs an honest, responsible and intelligent system of utilizing the national budget. In the first place, the citizens

who contribute to the budget through tax payments are ignorant of the country's expenditures. Irony, isn't it?

Students demand a higher budget for education. We may not be among them but we share their concern. It frightens us that one day, our younger brothers or sisters can no longer benefit from the privilege of being an "iskolar ng bayan" because the government can no longer afford to support them in their quest for quality education.

—KATRINA CARMELA LOPEZ,  
katrina\_carmela@yahoo.com

Come on! They are already winners of millions of pesos in those contests. On top of that, there are also the lucrative contracts with their respective TV networks. It's time classical musicians were given at least a share of the limelight.

—WILLIAM LIM JR.,  
10 Charles St., Kingsville Subd.,  
Antipolo, Rizal

## Lack of support for musicians

I VERY much agree with Conrado de Quiros' Sept. 2 column, "Essentials." Not that I'm advocating the total withdrawal of support for sports in the country. I'm just disappointed with the lack of government support for our musicians. We have the best musicians, but none of them are given due recognition or support, especially in financial terms.

The column jibes with Pablo Tari-

man's article, which was published earlier (PD, 8/23/04). In his article, Tariman describes how depressing the musical scene is in the Philippines, especially for artists of the serious (classical) genre, noting that not one classical singer has been honored in Malacañang, as against the numerous belters and winners of popular TV singing contests who have been invited to the Palace.



## Open Naia 3

THE ABORTED opening of the new Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 is a great disservice to travelers and tourists—Filipinos and foreigners alike.

We're losing a lot of potential tourists and investors because of our constant bickerings, while our Asean neighbors enhance the tourism and investment climate in their countries by building ultra-modern terminals.

Our government officials should get their act together and immediately open, once and for all, this controversial terminal before it becomes another white elephant.

—PEDRO REFUERZO JR.,  
6737 Taylo St., Makati City

## Cell phone theft

SINCE the areas where cellular phone theft is common have been identified, I suggest that security cameras be installed in those areas to help find the bad guys. Here in the United States, security cameras—no longer expensive these days—are everywhere.—Engineer Samuel B. Magno, Winston-Salem, NC, USA, via e-mail

\*\*\*  
I am among the thousands who have been victimized by cell phone snatching, like a lot of us here in the office. Which shows how rampant this crime is.

Anyway, may I suggest that the Inquirer do a follow-up article on cell phones returned to their owners by honest people? I want to commend the person who returned my Nokia 5600 when I left it in a taxi. Although I offered him a cash reward for his good deed (he refused to accept the money), I knew it was not enough to repay him. A follow-up article may somehow be able to change the life of even just a few cell phone thieves.—Geney Hufana, 4/F Professional Tower, 37 Edsa cor. Boni Ave., Mandaluyong City 1550, via e-mail

\*\*\*  
Why can't the media join hands in pushing for the enactment of a law that would effectively punish the selling and buying of stolen cell phones? The deaths that have resulted from cell phone robberies—not to mention the pain and the trauma suffered by victims who worked hard and sacrificed so much so that they could buy cell phones—cry for effective action.—Romeo C. Rodriguez, Saudi Aramco, Saudi Arabia, via e-mail

\*\*\*  
As in the case back home, here in the United Kingdom, phone theft is rampant. People kill people for it.

Stolen phones are easy to find. If you can't afford to have a new one, just go to the nearest second-hand shop and—voilà!—you can buy one for just a fraction of the original price.

Don't even talk to me about going to the police. They'll just ask questions and give you a log number and tell you to claim your insurance. But what if your phone wasn't insured?

Prices for stolen phones here range from 10 pounds to less than 100 pounds—depending, of course, on the kind of cell phone being sold.—Joyce Soldevilla Manaysay, 30 Rivergrove Gipsyville Hall, HU4 6LZ East Yorkshire, UK

\*\*\*  
My cell phone which is on G-Flex plan with Globe Telecom was stolen in Batangas. I went to Globe and there I was informed that the only help Globe could give was to block the SIM (Subscriber Identification Module). Then I discovered that it took a measly P300 to "unblock" the SIM, so I went to Smart to ensure that the phone would not work with a Smart SIM. Smart wouldn't lift a finger. I guess it wanted to get the business once the new phone holder shifted to Smart. I suppose this kind of business mind-set works on both sides of the fence.

So I had to go through a difficult process of securing an affidavit of loss and a police report, going all the way to Dili-man in Quezon City to block further use of my stolen cell phone. It was such a tedious, time-consuming, expensive process that would most likely have discouraged the faint of heart. That is why stolen phones are easily sold and released.

Let us make the process of blocking the use of stolen phones easy so it will be more costly for the buyers of such phones. I believe once phone ownership is proven, the service provider—Globe, Sun, or Smart—should undertake to send the request to block to the National Telecommunications Commission. No need for all those other documents. This will cut blocking time by more than 50 percent.

For phones purchased from registered free agents and dealers, the dealer must be required to certify the purchase and forward the documents to the NTC. Now, if the cell phone is bought from unlicensed and unregistered dealers and agents, then let the buyer beware; it's his/her risk.—Emelita L. Beltran, 205 Madrigal Ave., Ayala Alabang, via e-mail

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# Across the NATION

Text us your feedback: [inquirer\\_atn\\_cafe@citymessage.com](mailto:inquirer_atn_cafe@citymessage.com) to 2207 (Globe) or 263 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

## Gov't ambulance used for drug deal

**GENERAL SANTOS CITY**—Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) arrested three people aboard a government-owned ambulance at the Makar Port here on Wednesday and seized from them 20 large sachets of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu).

Lawyer Boye Mama, NBI district head for Sarangani and General Santos, identified the suspects as Malik Maltao, the alleged drug courier, Josefa Corpuz, the alleged contact and Leo Al Lucero, driver of the ambulance owned by the municipality of Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat, which the suspects used.

The arrest came after an unidentified informant told NBI of Maltao's scheduled arrival at the port here from Manila.

Mama said the informant had told them that the contact would either use a private van or a government-owned ambulance in meeting Maltao.

As early as 8 a.m., NBI agents were already posted at the pier and waited for the arrival of the Supper Ferry from Manila.

### Out of place

Around 9 a.m., Mama said the ship

arrived and this was when the agents noticed an ambulance belonging to Lambayong town.

He said after disembarking from the ship, Maltao immediately rode the ambulance. NBI agents posted at the pier's gate flagged down the ambulance and found Maltao and Corpuz inside.

They were then invited at the NBI office here for questioning.

NBI agents checked on Maltao's luggage and found an airport.

When inspected, Mama said the airport contained the 20 sachets of shabu estimated to be worth P320,000.

He said during interrogation, Maltao, a resident of Lambayong, claimed he was just a middleman in the transaction.

Mama said Maltao identified an Abu Ismael, a Maranao based in Pasig City, as his source.

Corpuz, a mother of three and also a resident of Lambayong, admitted the confiscated shabu was to be distributed in Tacurong City.

### Officials' involvement

Mama said the NBI would dig deeper to look into the possible involvement of a Lambayong official in the activities of the suspects.

This came after Lucero confessed that it was the second time the government vehicle was used to transport drugs.

Lucero had presented a trip ticket signed by a Lambayong town official.

The trip ticket, dated Sept. 15, was issued for the use of the ambulance in ferrying a supposed patient by the name of Alex Lucero to Poro-molok town, South Cotabato.

In a related development, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) here said it was filing charges against a police officer, who was caught in the act of selling shabu on Sept. 10. *Aquiles Zonia, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## More lawyers sign petition vs court fee hike

By Jolene R. Bulambot  
PDI Visayas Bureau

**CEBU CITY**—Around 400 lawyers here have supported the signature campaign initiated by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Cebu City chapter asking the Supreme Court to review and reconsider the imposition of new legal fees.

Lawyer Democrito Barceñas, president of the IBP-Cebu City chapter, yesterday said the signatures would be included in the annexes to the petition they would file next week before the High Tribunal.

Barceñas said the Supreme Court has not acted on their request yet, prompting him to convene the board again to finalize the filing of the petition arguing the reconsideration of the implementation of the new rates.

The lawyers' group has recently endorsed a copy of their resolution dated Aug. 4 this year to the Supreme Court in the hope that the justices

would take action on their request.

Aside from the signature campaign, the IBP city chapter has also circulated a copy of their resolution in different colleges and universities here to ask for their support.

He also welcomed the move of the other IBP chapters in the Visayas and Luzon that also adopted similar resolutions.

"I'm happy with the recent development since other chapters in Roxas, Iloilo and Bacolod cities have joined our call. This is just a manifestation that many are opposed to the new rule," he said.

The lawyers maintained that the drastic increase in legal fees would greatly affect the rights of the litigants and practicing lawyers in the provinces and contradicted the constitutional provision on free access to the courts and quasi-judicial bodies.

Some of the increases include the performance of marriage ceremony from the present rate of P200 to P2,000 in cities and P1,000 in other areas.

Meanwhile, the IBP national board has already adopted this month two resolutions also asking the Supreme Court to suspend and reconsider the new ruling under Rule 141 of the Rules of Court.

The resolution signed by Jose Anselmo Cadiz, national IBP president, described the new rate of legal fees was "exorbitant."

The resolution also said the new rule has adverse effects since it would discourage aggrieved parties to seek judicial remedies for their complaints. It also asked the Supreme Court to hold dialogues with governors and officers of the IBP.

The lawyers here have maintained that the Supreme Court failed to consult them about the new rate of increase.

Another lawyers' group, the Movement of Attorneys for Brotherhood, Integrity and Nationalism Inc. (Mabini), headed by former Sen. Rene Sagusag, has initiated the filing of a formal petition.

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## NBI probes excess purchase of oxygen at gov't hospital

By Carla P. Gomez  
PDI Visayas Bureau

**BACOLOD CITY**—The National Bureau of Investigation, in coordination with the Commission on Audit, will investigate the alleged irregular and excessive multimillion-peso purchase of medical oxygen at a state-run regional hospital here over a four-year period.

NBI Bacolod chief Pedro Diaz said he was creating a team to conduct the investigation starting next week at the Corazon Locsin Monrealibano Memorial Regional Hospital (CLMMRH).

Diaz said yesterday that if their findings would show that violations were committed, criminal and administrative cases would be filed against those responsible for violating the Anti Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

Dr. Benito Bionat Jr., CLMMRH chief of clinics, asked Diaz to investigate the alleged irregularities "for the purpose of uncovering anomalies, if any, and to prosecute those responsible personnel or officers."

He said he asked for the investigation to clear his name.

Bionat said an audit team from the Department of Health found that there were "irregular and excessive procurement of medical oxygen" for the years 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003.

No proper documentation was ever presented by responsible officers of the hospital, he said.

Bionat said he tried to conduct an investigation on his own and even wrote to Dr. Domingo Vega, CLMMRH chief of hospital, to furnish him with needed documents.

"Vega did not favor my request and instead directed personnel concerned not to furnish any hospital documents to any person," he said.

Vega, in a hospital memorandum dated Aug. 23, 2004, directed all division chiefs, department heads and section heads not to furnish any hospital document to anyone, saying that all hospital records are official and confidential in nature.



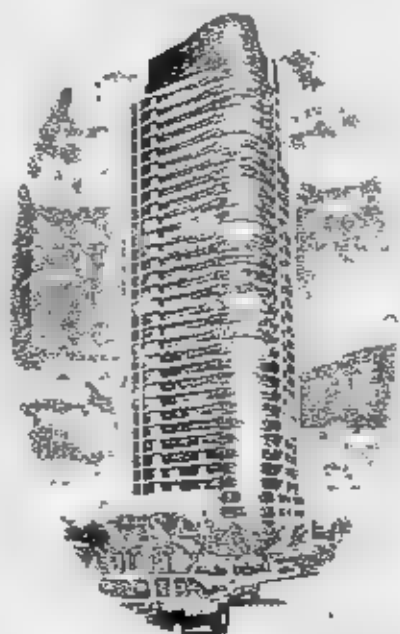
dum dated Aug. 23, 2004, directed all division chiefs, department heads and section heads not to furnish any hospital document to anyone, saying that all hospital records are official and confidential in nature.

He said hospital documents could not be given to anyone without his permission or authority of the chief of hospital unless there is a court order.

Bionat, in a letter to Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, said the CLMMRH purchase of oxygen in the year 2003 amounted to P11,927,450, which accounted for 26.32 percent of the hospital's P45.306 million budget for the year.

He said that comparative data from the Western Visayas Medical Center (WVMC), which practically has a similar volume of patients and services offered as CLMMRH, had oxygen use for 2003 of only P5.994 million, which was 11.8 percent of WVMC's P53.582 million budget for their maintenance and operating expenses.

Bionat said the manner was presented many times to the CLMMRH in the presence of Vega but no appropriate measure was taken to address the problem.



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## MAY 25 OPERATION

## Tawi-Tawi villagers sue US, RP troops for slays

By Julie Alipala  
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Residents of a village in Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi sued four American servicemen and several military and police personnel for murder and human rights violations at the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) here.

The suit came in connection with a military operation there in May, where three villagers were killed.

Jose Manuel Mamaug, Commission on Human Rights (CHR)

director for Western Mindanao, only revealed the charges Wednesday, although it was filed in July yet.

The residents, led by Sipangkot village chief Aldo Bara said on May 25, Filipino soldiers, the unidentified American servicemen and police raided Sitio Umapoy and arrested at least 11 villagers on charges of being Abu Sayyaf members.

Ranking military officials would not return calls for their reaction to the charges.

But Chief Supt. Sukarno Ik-bala, chief of the Autonomous Re-

gion in Muslim Mindanao police, vowed to help in the investigation.

In the complaint, the residents denied that those arrested were Abu Sayyaf gunmen.

They said the raiding team tortured the arrested villagers and later killed three of them.

Former Southern Command chief Roy Kyamko and ranking Navy officials called a press conference in June to announce the killing of three bandits and the arrest of eight others in a May 25 operation on Umapoy Island.



## UNWAVERING

The faithful won't be stopped from going to church in Lubao, Pampanga by floods.

## Pampanga exec sees losses in North Expressway

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Protests and the decrease in the number of road users due to the planned P2.49 per kilometer toll rate for the more than 80-km stretch of the upgraded North Luzon Expressway would not help its builder recover its P18.3-billion investment, a Pampanga official said.

Board Member Tarcio Halili, former chair of the Philippine Association of Realtors Board, anticipated this scenario in a paper he submitted to the provincial board on Monday.

The board continued its investigation of the proposed rate adjustments by the Lopez family-owned Manila North Tollways Corp.

Halili gave the paper, "An analysis and option on NLEX toll rate hike," before the board hears the side of the project's consultant, the University of the Philippines Planning and Development Research Foundation Inc. (UP Planades), in the first week of October.

He said there has to be a "win-win formula" that is "doable" and "fair" to vehicle owners, traders, the public, the MNTC and its foreign investors who took risks to invest on the project.

The MNTC projected a 13.92-percent return on investment within the 30-year contract to rehabilitate and operate the NLEX. Loans for the project did not come with government guarantees, the MNTC said.

The P6.6 billion in additional project cost was not included in the base toll rate, it said.

Still, Halili said the proposed toll hike, which is equivalent to at least P199.20 for the entire NLEX stretch (cars, light vehicles), was "abrupt and exorbitant" to the public amid the economic crisis.

He proposed six options based on the same factors the MNTC used in determining the rates:

- \* Reduce toll by half. This will double if not triple the number of road users. MNTC estimated the current traffic volume at 163,000 vehicles daily.

- \* Extend the 30-year contract for 10 more years, spreading the rate increases over time without sacrificing the profit margin of the foreign investors.

- \* Invite new investors to operate the NLEX when the MNTC contract expires in 2030.

- \* Deduct the cost of using the bridges since these were not graded.

- \* Suspend the construction and installation of light posts and other amenities and deduct the cost of operating and maintaining these.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

## Tighter security in churches urged

By Carla P. Gomez  
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Priests have been told to tighten security in churches here after the recent theft of the heads and hands of statues of saints in Murcia and Hinigaran towns.

Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra yesterday appealed to the perpetrators to respect the images considered sacred by the Catholic Church.

"We are not asking that they suffer retribution, but the mere fact that these are blessed images and objects of the devotion of the people, taking them is derogatory of the sanctity of the church and the object concerned," he said.

The bishop also appealed to the public not to buy the stolen church relics and to inform law enforcers if they know where these sacred objects were.

"This may be the work of a syndicate who are after antique artifacts," he said.

On the speculation that the stolen objects may be used as amulets, Navarra said these objects do not have magic powers. "Their purpose is to arouse devotion and increase the faith of the people."

Navarra said he was writing a circular letter to the priests of the Diocese of Bacolod telling them to tighten security in churches.

The head and hands of the century-old statue of the Mary Immaculate Conception and those of St. Mary Magdalene statue in the Murcia and Hinigaran churches were taken by thieves recently.

The National Bureau of Investigation is investigating the thefts.

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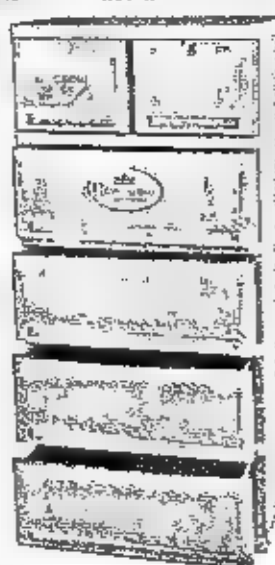
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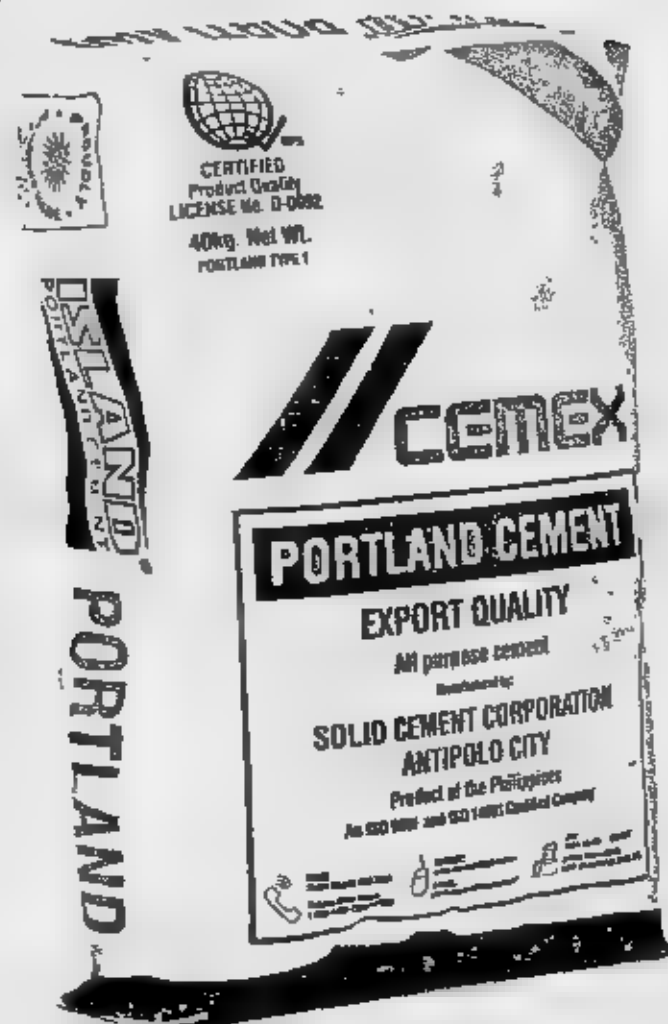
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## 'Best and brightest'

GIVEN the financial slump, is a salary of more than P6 million a year unreasonable?

Not if the government is to attract the "best and brightest," said Rufino Bomasang, president of the Philippine National Oil Co.-Exploration Corp. (PNOC-EC) and third on the list of government "fat cats" in 2002.

Bomasang said that in the PNOC, the pay range was carried over from the Petrophil Corp. days, when salaries were designed to be competitive with those offered by the multinational oil firms. Philipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. of the Royal Dutch/Shell group and Caltex Philippines Inc. of Chevron Texaco Inc. Petrophil is the predecessor of Petron Corp., the country's leading oil firm, in which PNOC has a 40-percent stake.

"One of the main reasons the PNOC has been able to give back

almost P48 billion to the government over the years is the fact that [it] has been able to attract the best and brightest in the industry," said Bomasang, a mining engineering board exam topper in 1964 with an average of 85.79 percent, the highest since 1953.

His post, which he has held since 1996, was offered to him in 1995, when he was earning in dollars as a US-AID consultant.

Bomasang admitted getting a P6-million paycheck in 2002, but said the amount covered his basic pay, 13th-month pay and other bonuses before taxes and other deductions.

But other people in the PNOC have since made drastic moves. Paul Aquino, who succeeded former Leyte Rep. Sergio Apostol as president of the PNOC-Energy Development Corp., reportedly cut his own pay by half when he assumed the post. Abigail L. Ho

## Pay cuts for gov't fat cats

From page A1

willing to set the example.

Garcia, president and general manager of the GSIS, said he was voluntarily giving up P160,000 of his monthly take-home pay of about P200,000.

"I am heeding the call of the President to support the government's austerity program," Garcia said at a press briefing. He said he was seeking the advice of the budget and finance departments as to where he should remit his contribution.

Garcia's gross monthly salary totals to P350,000. The P200,000 is the net of a 31 percent tax and other deductions.

The GSIS chief said the P160,000 would be deducted from his net salary so as not to deprive the government of the taxes he pays.

Barin, who assumed her post as SEC chair only on Sept. 1, said she was willing to take a pay cut if Malacañang's austerity measures required it.

"If it has to be cut down, so be it," she told reporters after a forum at the Manila Over-

seas Press Club.

Barin said she had yet to know how much she would be paid. "When I accepted this office, the matter of how much I'm going to get was never an issue. Whatever is there, I have to prove that I can do the job," she said.

GOCCs, especially the heavily losing ones who depend on the government to bail them out of their debts, are being assailed for giving fat salaries and perks to their executives despite the fiscal crisis.

It was revealed Tuesday at a Senate hearing on the proposed 2005 national budget that GOCC executives were receiving between P5 million to P9 million in annual salaries and allowances.

### Legal but immoral

By Boncodin's account, the President told the GOCC executives that although "not illegal," their salaries were "immoral."

Ms Arroyo also made it clear to her appointees that they could be sanctioned or

even fired for not following orders.

"She told them she would not think twice in dismissing her appointees who would not observe the austerity measures outlined in Administrative Order No. 103," Boncodin said.

AO 103, signed on Aug. 31, contains Ms Arroyo's directive to all government companies, schools and financial institutions (GFIs) to curb the granting of new benefits, hiring of consultants, purchase of vehicles, foreign and local travel, sports and fiesta celebrations, paid media ads, overtime work and utility bills.

Boncodin said that in line with the President's most recent order, all GOCCs would be put under a rationalization program "to put in check the salaries and expenditures" of their top officials and directors.

She said the President announced during the meeting on Wednesday night that she was serving a "Russian dinner" to her guests to show how serious Malacañang was in implementing the austerity program.

The dinner turned out to be chicken and vegetables served on plastic plates with matching spoon and fork, Boncodin said. And the millionaire guests—whose luxury vehicles spilled out of the Palace's parking lot—were served only soft drinks.

Boncodin had previously berated Malacañang's "powerlessness" to set the compensation of GOCC officers and directors. She said this was why Malacañang had asked Congress' help in amending the GOCCs' respective charters.

### Best people

Barin called for cooperation among SEC employees in implementing the austerity program, but expressed the hope that it would not affect the rank-and-file employees.

Garcia said the GSIS was not like other GOCCs: "We do not impact on the national government's cash position, and we certainly do not contribute to its fiscal problem because we are a self-sustaining organization."

But in Davao, Sen. Manuel Roxas III said some GOCCs and GFIs were justified in giving hefty salaries to their executives.

He said the GSIS, Land Bank of the Philippines and Social Security System were some of the agencies that needed to keep a high profitability.

"At the LBP, where tens of billions of pesos are at stake, you cannot pick just anybody to head a department," Roxas told reporters at the opening of the Mindanao Business Conference.

He added: "We want to attract the best people who will not easily be tempted into making bad decisions to ensure that the government won't go bankrupt. To attract them, we need to pay them compensation that will be at par with, and even higher than, that in the private sector."

Roxas, however, said only those GOCCs demanding a "high level of special skills" could justify fat paychecks.

"If you ask me if a P10-million salary a year is justified, I would say that in some instances, yes," he said. "But if you ask me if the P9 million for the PCSO (Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office) is too high, I would say yes because the challenge of running it is not quite the same as running the LBP or the SSS."

A Commission on Audit report has shown that top PCSO executives were among the highest paid in the government.

### Legal and voluntary

At the House, Majority Leader Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) called for legislation that would standardize the pay of executives of GOCCs and GFIs.

But he said such a law should also provide for a profit-sharing scheme so that those agencies "making money for the government" would be able to provide financial incentives to their executives.

For those not making money, executives "should live within an acceptable salary grade, and adjustments should cover only their cost of living allowance so that everyone works for his worth," Nograles also said.

In a joint statement, Lakas Representatives Edwin Uy (Isabela) and Aurelio Umali (Nueva Ecija) urged the concerned executives to voluntarily take a cut.

"They should be sensitive enough amid the financial troubles facing our nation," Uy said. Umali said that because it would take time to amend these agencies' respective charters their officials must "undertake their own sacrifice."

Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran suggested an extreme option: Charge these executives with plunder.

"By allowing these executives to accumulate ill-gotten wealth for themselves, President Macapagal-Arroyo is a party to the crime. She ran and should also be charged with plunder," Beltran also said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo challenged Ms Arroyo to demand the resignation of GOCC executives who would not give up part of their high salaries.

Ocampo said Malacañang's stance that it was powerless to act on the matter was "simply unacceptable."

In a speech before the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines, Speaker Jose de Venecia said he would craft an executive legislative measure that would scale down the salaries, benefits and other perks being enjoyed by GOCC executives.

De Venecia said he would soon meet with Boncodin, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez to finalize the measure. With reports from Michelle V. Remo, Elizabeth L. Sanchez, Carlito Pablo and Cynthia D. Balana in Manila; Gernelina A. Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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# Manila's list of 10 most wanted suspects gets trimmed by 2 names

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE LIST of the ten most wanted suspects in Manila is now two names less.

Suspected overpass robbers Danny Rosaroso and Rendon Balcos, were nabbed in Sampaloc the other day as part of the Western Police District's (WPD) Oplan Manhunt Bravo after eight months of hiding from authorities.

Balcos and Rosaroso occupied the 5th and 6th spots on the list and had outstanding arrest warrants issued by Manila Judge Antonio de Castro for a robbery case.

During his arrest Wednesday night, Rosaroso allegedly

tried to shoot policemen from the WPD Warrant Section, who were prompted to shoot him in the right foot.

Police said they were able to corner Rosaroso as he was about to leave his house, but upon seeing them, he reportedly ran back and took a gun.

After he was shot, he was taken to the Ospital ng Maynila for treatment and is now detained at the WPD headquarters. Police also seized a .38-caliber revolver firearm with six bullets from him.

Police said Balcos and Rosaroso were key suspects in the series of robberies at the España and Lacson over-

pass in Sampaloc, which is near the University Belt.

The warrants for their arrest were issued after the two were tagged as the suspects in the holdup of Sonny Boy Obayan at the overpass in January this year.

Balcos and Rosaroso, allegedly armed with .38-caliber revolvers, reportedly took Obayan's cellular phone, diver's wristwatch and P10,000 in cash.

WPD Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong yesterday also said that the police would summon all those who have been robbed at the Lacson España overpass to identify the suspects.

# Caloocan bans towing services

By Tina G. Santos

CALOOCAN City Mayor Enrico Echiverri has ordered all towing services, including those of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the Northern Traffic Enforcement Group (NTEG), banned in the city, following complaints from motorists daily harassed by abusive towing personnel.

"These firms are not authorized to do so. And as of today, there are no towing services officially allowed to operate in the city," he said.

Echiverri added that even those accredited by the MMDA and the NTEG would not be allowed to operate in the city.

"I have been receiving reports that towing personnel are not really after helping stalled motorists but are out to take in as many vehicles they can for the exorbitant fees they collect. We cannot

allow them to take advantage of the motorists," he said.

The mayor added that his order was backed by a local ordinance which mandates penalties for violators.

He stressed that he did not want a repeat of the "Jade-well experience," where helpless motorists fell victim to illegal towing operations and then to extortion.

## Exclusive right

The previous administration under Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo gave exclusive right to Jadewell Parking Systems (JPS) to tow illegally parked and stalled vehicles in the city.

Shortly after Echiverri took over Malonzo's post, he ordered Jadewell to cease and desist from its towing operations because of alleged abuses and for allegedly shortchanging the city government.

The towing company re-

portedly remitted only five percent instead of the 20 percent on gross profits or 50 percent of net profits, whichever was higher as stipulated in the memorandum of agreement signed by Malonzo and JPS president and general manager Rogelio Tan in 2002.

Echiverri likewise urged residents to report to authorities anybody violating the order, saying that aside from putting a stop to the reported abuses of unscrupulous towing companies, he wanted the motorists of Caloocan to be disciplined, responsible vehicle owners.

"They should always check the condition of their vehicles so they would avoid getting stalled. They should not park in no parking areas. If they get stalled, they should bring their vehicle to a place where they would not block the free flow of traffic," he said.

# 3 bullets follow text message

By Nancy C. Carvajal

DEATH came with a warning.

Before shooting their victim, four unidentified suspects sent him a text message telling him to enjoy his dinner because it would be his last.

Minutes later, Wednesday night, several bullets felled Abdulaziz Kuday, 37, police said.

Kuday was a member of Taguig's Bantay Bayan or mayor's squad.

The suspects also shot and wounded his two young sons, aged 7 and 12.

Police said Kuday was knocking at the door of his house on Marawi Street, Maharlika VII, Taguig, when the suspects struck from behind.

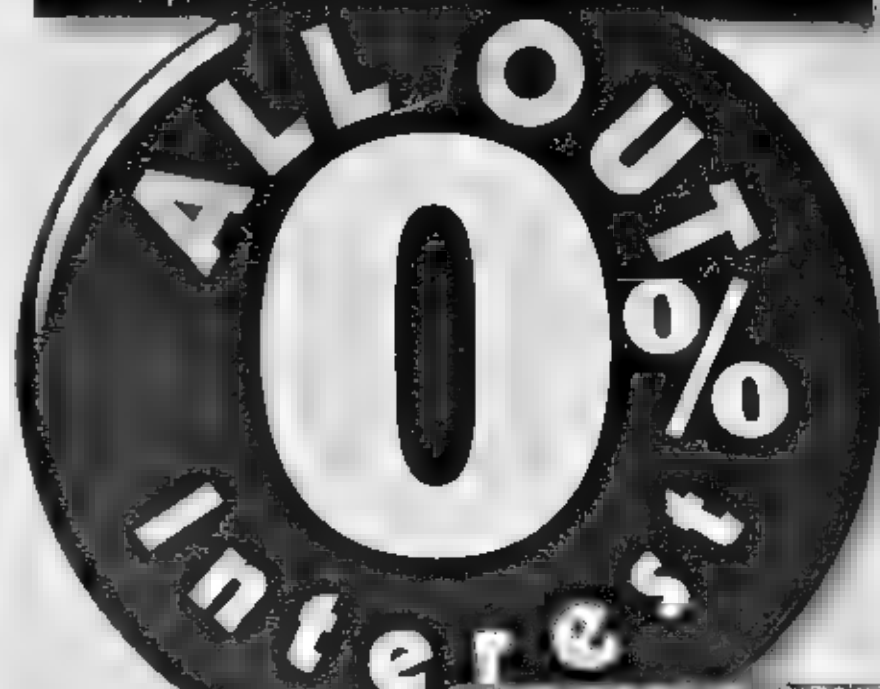
"There are three bullet holes on our plywood door," said Bantay, the victim's wife. She said she was in the comfort room when she heard several gunshots.

Kuday said she saw her two sons lying down on the floor bleeding when she came out of the comfort room. With their door already opened, she noticed her husband on the stairs bleeding and breathing heavily, trying to reach out to her.

Abdulaziz was declared dead on arrival at the Pateros District hospital, while the two other victims were brought to Rizal Medical Center in Pasig City.

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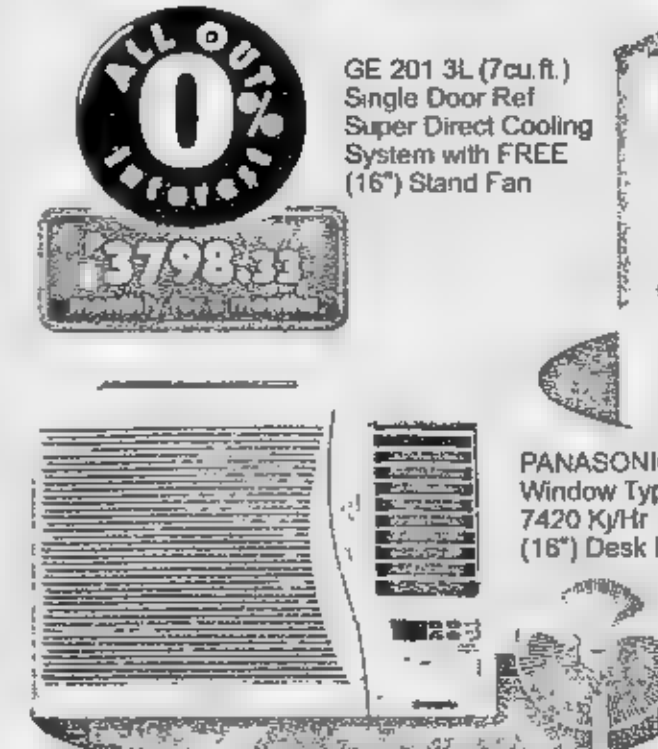
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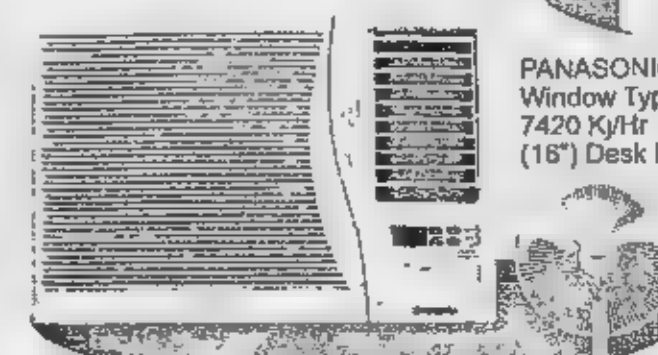
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# Makati traffic men go to charm school

By Margaux C. Ortiz

NO, THEY are not models. They are Makati City traffic enforcers.

In an effort to professionalize its traffic personnel, the city government will be sending 25 of its traffic enforcers to a one-day "personality enhancement" course at the prestigious John Robert Powers training center.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said the training would be part of Makati's campaign to show the professional side of government service.

"We are presenting government employees who are able to project a positive image of the city and their uniform," Binay said in a statement.

The mayor said enforcers who

would complete the course would be deployed in the city's Central Business District, where major local and multinational firms, banks, hotels and shopping malls are located.

The course, specially designed for the city's traffic enforcers, will stress the importance of providing them "with the necessary skills to be the

best in being a law enforcer."

Vissia Aldon, John Robert Powers human resource department director, said the total package would have cost P90,000. However, she added, the center was giving a hefty P40,000 discount to the city.

The institute cited a study conducted at a major United States university that said majority of

people make their impressions of others based on physical, non-verbal images, including appearance and body language.

The course will cover poise, posture, body language dynamics, grooming and communication skills.

The training will also include decorum in public places and special occasions, dealing with

difficult clients, techniques for conversational appeal, and maintaining poise and courage under fire.

At the end of their training, the traffic enforcers will get free grooming services from the institute's grooming experts.

A follow up training will be conducted for the traffic officers after two weeks.

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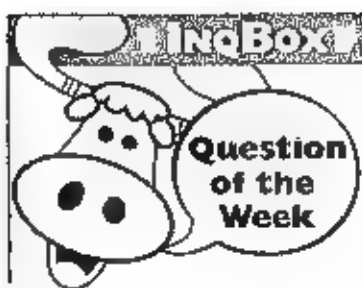
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**DURALITE**  
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Sa tibay, hindi basta-basta bumibigay.



DON Yabut of FEU barrels his way to the basket against UE's RJ Masbang during their Final Four match at PhilSports. ERNE J. SANMENDO

## Tams repulse Warriors, secure 1st Finals berth

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT TOOK some tense-filled moments before the Far Eastern Tamaraws got their foot back in the Finals door.

FEU claimed the first title berth after the defending champion rose from an 11-point deficit in the second half to dispose off the feisty University of the East Warriors, 71-64, yesterday in the semifinals of the UAAP senior basketball tournament at the PhilSports Arena.

Dennis Miranda shot 19 points and drew ample help from the seasoned cast of Mark Isip, Arwind Santos and Don Yabut during the Tamaraws' second-half charge from 33-44 in the third quarter.

"Everybody was positive coming into the second half. The veterans talked to the team and so everybody got their focus back," said FEU coach

Koy Banal after booking their second straight Finals appearance.

The De La Salle Archers shoot for the second championship slot this Sunday against their archrivals, the Ateneo Eagles, at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Tamaraws mounted a 17-7 siege to wrest the lead at 50-48, less than four minutes remaining in the third quarter. The Morayra contingent then opened the final period with a 12-2 assault to boost its advantage to 66-54.

The Warriors gave it a desperate rush as Paolo Hubalde ignited an 8-2 run that whittled the lead to 68-62 in the last two minutes.

But UE's inexperience showed in the end as the Warriors committed three turnovers in the dying minutes.

The much taller FEU lineup also outrebounded UE, 44-33.

Earlier, the La Salle Bengals stunned top-seed UST Tiger Cubs, 61-52, to force a playoff match in the junior semifinals.

The scores:

FEU 71—Miranda 18, Isip 17, Santos 12, Yabut 9, Ricardo 8, Chan 6, Garcia 2, Mangalao 0, Dela Cruz 0, Cutler 0.

UE 64—Hubalde 16, Sagundel 16, Canalela 12, Arlano 8, Lahagala 8, Dizon 2, Masbang 2, Napo 0.

Quarters: 20-20, 33-41, 54-52, 71-64.

## Historic NCAA crown duel on

**GAMES TODAY**  
(Rival Coliseum)  
2 p.m.—PCU vs Letran (Jrs Playoff)  
4 p.m.—Perpetua vs PCU  
(Srs—Game 1 Finals)

A HISTORIC NCAA basketball title series unfolds today when the University of Perpetua, Heip Altas and the Philippine Christian U Dolphins vie for their first championship crown in the best-of-three finals at the Rival Coliseum.

The Altas and the Dolphins defied pre-season forecast as they transformed themselves from doormat teams to title contenders this season.

But the Dolphins will miss coach Lorero Tolentino, who is serving a one-game suspension. Commissioner Ricky Pascua earlier recommended the suspension after Tolentino confronted the technical committee to protest a call in PCU's game against Letran Wednesday.

Both squads topped the eliminations with 10-4 records.

Although both were pushed to the brink in the Final Four, PCU eventually foiled the Letran Knights' title defense with an 85-80 overtime win, while Perpetua edged the San Beda Lions, 58-56, in their playoff.

The Dolphins are in their first finals appearance since joining the league in 1996, while the Altas will troop to the championship match for the first time in 15 years.

"We're here so we'll go get the championship," said Altas coach Ben Cristobal.

The teams split their encounters. Perpetua won in the first round, 84-71, but PCU countered with a 71-62 decision in the second round. *Jasmine W. Payo*

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# SPORTS

## NCFP seeds GMs Torre, Antonio, too

By Roy Luanca

PERENNIAL national team mainstays Eugene Torre and Joey Antonio will again be at the vanguard of the Philippine campaign in the 36th Chess Olympiad set next month in Majorca, Spain.

In recognition of the experience of Torre and Antonio, the National Chess Federation of the Philippines executive board yesterday decided to seed the two Grandmasters who have manned the boards 1 and 2 for the RP team for more than a decade.

They will join international Master Mark Paragua, the country's top-rated player who has been seeded earlier, in the six-man team to the biennial meet.

NCFP president Go T'eng Kok invoked national interest in the outright inclusion



TORRE

ANTONIO

of Torre and Antonio.

"We need to send the best and the brightest to the Olympiad. Torre and Antonio have already proven their worth countless times. They need to be in the Philippine team to bolster our chances," said Go.

The seeding of Paragua, Torre and Antonio left only three more slots to be dis-

puted in the national chess championships starting tomorrow in Tagaytay City.

Go, however, assured the other aspirants that they will be given priority in the selection of players for the next international tournament after the Olympiad.

Another GM, Nelson Mariano, chose to skip the event in protest of the outright inclusion of Paragua. Mariano did not submit his credentials to the NCFP.

Aspirants to the national chessfest include reigning RP juniors champion National Master Oliver Barbosa and 10-year-old Wesley So, the youngest qualifier ever.

The other finalists are IM Barlo Nadera, FM Jesse Noel Sales, NMs Mirabeau Maga, Rounding Nohe, Emmanuel Senador, Roland Joseph Perez, Darwin Laylo, Rodolfo Diaz and Leonardo Carlos.

IMs Chito Garma and Petronio Roca took the place of GM Bong Villamayor, who is working abroad, and Paragua.

Reserves Ramie Pazon of Sorsogon and FM Fernie Donguines will advance to the national finals following the seeding of Torre and Antonio.

All participants in the event hosted by Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino must be in the venue by 10 a.m. for the drawing of lots.

In the staff side, seeded players and SEAG veterans WIM Beverly Mendoza, Cristine Rose Mariano, WFM Sheerle Joy Lomibao and WNM Kathryn Ann Cruz are expected to face stiff challenge from top qualifier WNM Aices Salvador, a 14-year old standout of University of the East. With a report from Marlon Bernardino

## Marho at full gallop

THE FACT that it is now 30 years old is proof enough that the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners has come of age. Over time, it has emerged as the most popular and dominant local organization of horse breeders and race horse owners. And to mark its 30th year, the association will stage—rain or shine—the 2004 Marho Pearl Stakes Races tomorrow and Sunday at the Santa Ana Park.

"More than a celebration of its 30th anniversary, this week-end affair will be a fitting tribute to the country's most respected horsemen who founded the premier organization," said Marho president Putch Puyat, the third man of the so-called "Philippine Racing Big 3" that include Marho chair Sandy Javier and racing heart-throb Hermie Esquerra, owner of multi-awarded Wind Blown.

With Smart Communications Inc. as major sponsor, the two-day racing extravaganza will be highlighted by Sunday's blockbuster "Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr. Cup," a 1,600-meter race held in honor of the Marho founding chair and president. A whopping P1 million will go to the winner of the race featuring eight battle-tested horses led by West Bound, Near Laurel, Cutting Edge and Senoar. The other classy entries are Dandan-soy and Imports Being There, and up-and-coming Sexiest of noted breeder Sandy Javier.

Among the betting favorites in Sunday's Cojuangco Cup are 2003 top horse West Bound, a 4-year-old chestnut colt owned by C&H Enterprises. Hermie Esquerra's never-say-die Near Laurel, winner of the 2004 PSEA Cup and the second leg of the Philrcom Imported Stakes race; Putch Puyat's sensational Cutting Edge, winner of the inaugural WHIP Cup, and up-and-coming Sexiest of noted breeder Sandy Javier.

Fourteen other cup races will be held in honor of Marho pioneers Macario Asistio Sr., Antonio Araneta, Angel Casarino, Pedro Cojuangco, Jose Cojuangco Jr., Asterio Pavis, Federico Moreno, Emilio Espinosa Sr., former Manila mayor Ramon Bagatsing, Elias Coscolluela, Isidro Rodriguez Sr., Jose Revilla, Constante Rubio, Samuel Shanrut, Augusto Santos and Conrado Trinidad.

"It is truly a good year for the horseracing industry," Philippine Racing Commission chair Jaime Dilag said at a recent interview, citing the full support by the sport's direct players like the horse owners, jockeys, trainers, stakes race sponsors and, last but not the least, the racing public.

This weekend's Pearl Stakes series is a preview of Marho's year-ending Breeders' Cup, one of the richest and hottest horseracing events in contemporary Philippine sports history.

## CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Inigo

# Duremdes lifts Realtors past Korean cagers

KENNETH Duremdes fired 38 points as the Sta. Lucia Realtors eked out a 106-103 victory Wednesday over the visiting SK Knights at the start of the PBA Korean Basketball League goodwill series at the Caruncho gym in Pasig City.

Duremdes, who appeared comfortable with the new ball the league will use this season, scored 27 points in the second half, including a string of nine that broke a 94-all count and put the Realtors ahead, 103-96, with 2:11 to go.

The South Koreans rallied behind import Kris Lang, who drained a jumper that moved them within 103-104, 18 seconds to play.

Among the visitors were Sang Hyun Cho and Hee Chul Chun, two members of the South Korean team that dealt the RP squad a painful loss in the semifinals of the 2002 Asian Games basketball tournament.

The two teams went at each other hard right

at the opening tip with the Knights' two American reinforcements—former Purefoods imports Leonard White and Lang—keeping the Koreans in the thick of things.

The game was halted briefly in the second quarter when Dennis Espino and White almost came to blows after some pushing and shoving.

The Realtors dictated the pace for the most part and posted the game's biggest lead at 75-64 late in the third quarter. But the Koreans, beefed up by 10 members of the men's and junior national teams, refused to roll over.

The Knights were scheduled to play the Coca-Cola Tigers at the Arellano gym late yesterday.

**The scores:**  
STA. LUCIA 106—Duremdes 38, Espino 16, Mendoza 15, Francisco 13, Aquino 11, Onibido 6, Adriano 4, Santos 3, Gonzales 0, Ong 0, Victorio 0, Cuan 0.  
SK KNIGHTS 103—White 36, Cho 28, Lang 15, Chun 9, Lim 7, Jeon 4, Park 2, Kim 2.  
Quarters: 30-29, 58-50, 79-73, 106-103.



KENNETH Duremdes of Sta. Lucia is back to his old form after an injury-forced layoff, scoring 38 points to lead the Realtors. PHOTO

# Bibat hangs on, but RP blows team bid

By Musong R. Castillo

MICHAEL Bibat kept the overall lead but the Philippines gave away the team title in the Singapore Amateur championship yesterday at the Serapong layout of the Sentosa Golf Club.

Bibat shot a four-over 76 and Boyer Saragoza stumbled with a second straight 82 and Singapore escaped with the team trophy by two shots after Choo Tze Huang accounted for a 74 and Tan Feldman signed for a 71 for a final 446 tally.

But the 20-year-old Bibat still led the individual race by five shots over Choo at

212, even as Tommy Manotoc, campaigning only in the individual event, shot a 73 to barge into the top 10 with a 224 total.

Saragoza was out of it with a 232 aggregate going into the final round today.

"I don't know what happened. I was playing pretty well, going to No. 11 at one-under," said Bibat in an overseas call. "It would have been sweet, going home with the team championship."

At the sixth place in the Putra Cup last month, Bibat bogeyed 11, 12, 15 and the final two holes.

Meanwhile, reigning RP champ Jun

Bernis yesterday scored a two-under 70 at Villamor and sustained his march toward a top three finish in the evaluation series for the team to the World Amateur.

The 33-year-old father of one dipped in from the fringe on the par-5 18th for an eagle to seal one of two under-par rounds for the day.

Artemio Murakami also had a 70 behind a five-birdie, three-bogey effort.

Jovic Pagusanan was hardly ruffled atop the standings despite going four-over in the last five holes for a 73. He has a comfortable 490 total heading into the final round of the eight-day, 144-hole series at

The Riviera's Langer course today.

Bernis, also the winner of the DHL Amateurs, now has a 503 aggregate.

Marvin Dumandan scored a far 7 on No. 11, bogeyed 14 and double bogeyed 15 and 16 for a 79. He was in fourth position with a 513 total, one shot behind Murakami and just three in front of former caddies' champion Jay Bayron (71).

Meanwhile, Anya Tancinco continued to hold sway in the ladies' side, shooting a 79 for a 545 total, eight strokes ahead of Carmelita Villaroman (82). Lora Roberto shot a 76 for a 554 total, and Jayver Agoyo scored in a 79.

## Akiko's thoughts

ATLANTA Olympian Gillian Akiko Thomson will be the motivational speaker at the Leadership Forum set today at the St. Michael's College Auditorium in Iigan City. Akiko will share her experiences and anecdotes in swimming, including her thoughts on Olympism. She served as a volunteer in the recent Athens Olympic Games. The ninth leg of the forum is organized under the Globe Genbit School Trip 14 City Campus Tour

# UM, CEU forge showdown for Naascu title

By Marc Anthony Reyes

UNIVERSITY of Manila hammered Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay into submission, 81-72, at the Rizal Coliseum yesterday to reach the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities men's basketball finals.

Centro Escolar University later nosed out St. Clare College of Caloocan, 79-77, in their own Final Four duel to arrange a

side showdown with UM.

The best-of-five finals will begin Sept. 23 also at the Rizal Coliseum.

UM led by as many as 23 points in its march to its fourth straight finals and 71st consecutive win in the league.

**The scores:**  
UM 81—Gomez 31, Bernades 12, Regalado 12, Salem 8, Santiago 8, Uao 4, Licajia 2, Delosmas 2, Velasco 0, Payabayo 0.  
PLP 72—Acy 15, David 14, Guepasa 13, Gansal

12, Serrera 8, Nava 6, Bala 2, Galindez 2, Dela Cruz

**Quarters:** 21-17, 49-36, 61-51, 81-72

**At the Arrefiano Gym:**

CEU 79—Canto 17, Gacilda 13, Oriolal 13, Marasat 12, Manjero 12, Salamat 4, J. Romulo 3, F. Romulo 3, Dayag 2, Becal 0, Tolas 0.

**St. Clare 77—Yamahan 18, Marolle 12, Dizon 0,**

Deveratura 10, Geraldino 6, Maralanan 5, Olvera 5,

Marias 4, Salasay 3, San Pedro 3, Oica 0, Dorondom 0

**Quarters:** 18-22, 31-46, 57-55, 79-77

## The right way

ALWAYS, the surest way to choose players for overseas battles is to subject all candidates to a qualifying tournament. Highly rated or not, previous winners or not, there should be no exception. All of them should go through the wringer.

A good player will almost always be good, no matter what.

OK, I grant, there are times when even the best can play his/her worst. On a given day, the best can play like any cellar-dweller.

But that is more the exception than the rule.

If one is good, one will be there at the top most of the time, if not all of the time. As they say, if you're good, you're lucky.

Take Tiger Woods.

He wasn't always winning. He won just once during the last 15 months, but because he is that good, he was always there, among the top finishers almost in every tournament that he played in. He wasn't winning, yes, but his consistency in being among the top finishers in tournaments kept him No. 1 for 264 uninterupted weeks. When he lost his No. 1 ranking a while back, he lost a fighting, finishing second at the Deutchbank Open in Massachusetts to the one who

## SPECTATOR

At S. Mendoza



ousted him—Vijay Singh.

Even in defeat, Tiger Woods showed the true mark of a champion: "Winning takes care of the ranking."

Indeed, one has to keep winning to stay atop the field, to be among the best all the time, if not the best most of the time.

Let me now cite the system the National Golf Association of the Philippines (NGAP) is currently using in selecting players to compose the national team for the World Team Golf Amateurs set for next month in Puerto Rico. It deserves applause because it does away with favoritism.

The system calls for the best and the brightest to fight it out for precious slots, each one not sparing quarters.

Now here's the beautiful catch to the system. Two of the aspirants are jockey-

ing for positions while competing in the Singapore Open—Michael Bibat and Boyer Saragoza. They are there because the tournament coincided with the NGAP qualifying. In order for them not to "miss" the qualifying, their scores in Singapore were accepted as their rounds from the fifth to the eighth day in the ongoing NGAP qualifying.

I doff my hat to that, particularly to Louie Fernandez, the NGAP secretary general who pushed for that bailout. If this were the Chess Olympiad, Fernandez would have won the brilliancy prize hands down.

Thus the four rounds played by Bibat and Saragoza in Singapore would be added to the other four rounds they had completed here before they left.

After the completion of 144 holes today, the NGAP will evaluate the performance of the aspirants—Jovic Pagusanan, Marvin Dumandan, Artemio Murakami, Jun Bernis, JR Tancinco, Jay Bayron, Gene Bondoc, Erwin Vinluan, Lawrence Negrida, Bibat and Saragoza.

No, the top three players do not automatically clinch slots in the three-man national team. Contrary to reports, this is not a battle for the top two positions,

with the third slot to be given to the so-called "captain's choice" a la Ryder Cup.

"We called a qualifying, yes, but with the idea of evaluating their performances after eight days of action," said Fernandez. "We will study the trend of their scores on a day-to-day basis before we come up with the final lineup. We are doing this because, remember, the World Amateurs is team play, meaning no individual winners here."

It was Fernandez who captained the Philippine squad to a best-ever finish of third place by a Filipino team in this Olympics of golf in Malaysia in 2002.

However, if Jovic Pagusanan, a mainstay of our team in Malaysia in 2002, emerges No. 1 after today's eighth and final round, I think it is but logical to include him to the Puerto Rico mission. As to the other two members, I leave it to the discretion of Fernandez & Co.

I hope that those chosen to compose the team wear their badge of honor as though they earned it after defending to the death their land against foreign invaders.

In fact, all players sent abroad should have that patriotic feeling pinned on their hearts at all times.

## SPORTSWATCH

### Checkmate clinic starts

THE SIXTH series of Mito Checkmate Saturday-only clinic will start this Saturday at the following venues: Notre Dame of Greater Manila Area (NDGMA) in Grace Park, Caloocan City; Rizal Memorial Sports Complex (RMSC), Vito Cruz, Manila; and at the 4F J&F Divino Building, 967 Aurora Boulevard near the LRT 2 Anonas Station in Quezon City. The clinics are open to players five to 18 years old. For inquiries, call MCC at 8268560 and 0916-8521069.

### Pasay 4-stag derby tonight

THE PASAY Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA), a group of big-time cockers, presents its first 4-stag derby tonight at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit. Derby enthusiasts are assured of more than 50 fights, said pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric de la Rosa and Butchboy Olan. Leading the cast are 2004 PCCA Cocker of the Year winners Rudy Salud and Lito Ortilaza. Sponsors are Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan Mee Free and Sagupaan B-50 Fortin. The second PC 4-stag derby sizzles next Friday, while the Mahalan 2-Cock Fastest Kill Super Ullan unfolds on Sept. 28. For inquiries, call 8431890, 8431746 or 8166750.

### Cocker Lagon shows way

REIGNING Cocker of the Year and two-time Breeder of the Year Sonny Lagon ruled last Monday's second leg of the 5-stag derby circuit organized by the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines. The victory allowed Lagon to seize the overall lead in the all-out Shared championship honors with Lagon in the second leg were Paolo Mito (Farman), Ashly Arnyala (Agafas) and Tony Pastrino (EDL Farm). Lagon's Blue Blade and Faustino's EDL Farm share the circuit lead with 7 points each. Rounding out the top 10 are Benjie Lim (Love U Papa) and Gerry Ramos (Kammandag) with 6.5 points each; Patrick Antonio (Sagupaan BPZ Complex), Arnyala (Agafas), Pol Estrelado-Boy Royo (PEBR) with 6 pts each; Raychil Salo-Boy de Roca (Super Ninja BL), Pepito Ngo (Fat man sa Pasay Mar. 7, 8, 11), 5.5 pts each, and Blandy Talentino (San Pablo Heat) 5 pts.





**TIGER** Woods blasts out in the sixth hole during practice for the Ryder Cup. **REUTERS**

## Ryder Cup: Big names mean little

**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, Michigan**—Don't look for Hal Sutton to repeat the classic introduction Ben Hogan gave during the flag-raising ceremony for the 1967 Ryder Cup.

"Ladies and gentlemen," Hogan said solemnly, "I present the American team—the 10 greatest golfers in the world."

For one thing, there are now 12 golfers per side. For another, it would be farfetched for a US captain of this generation to claim his team has a monopoly on the world's best players.

That said, the Americans find themselves in a familiar role. They are the clear favorites, with star power and major championships that can't be matched by the Europeans. The world rankings are more ammunition for those who expect Oakland Hills Country Club to be the scene of a red, white and blue celebration this weekend.

And this being the Ryder Cup, it doesn't mean a thing.

"Being underdogs doesn't mean we're going to lose," European star Sergio Garcia said. "Being underdogs means that on paper, they are better than us. You've just got to look at the world rankings. That definitely says something."

"We have come into the matches as underdogs most of the time," said Colin Montgomerie, who has never lost a singles match at the Ryder Cup. "I don't think this is any different." **AP**

## De La Hoya wants belts of Hopkins

**LAS VEGAS**—Oscar De La Hoya stared straight ahead, eyes unwavering under his baseball cap. A few feet away, Bernard Hopkins was telling everyone who would listen what he'll do to the Golden Boy on Saturday night.

For once, De La Hoya didn't have much to say. When he finally did talk, the words came out with the same kind of intensity De La Hoya plans to bring into the ring against the undisputed middleweight champion.

"I'm not thinking of anything else because all I want is those belts," De La Hoya said. "Believe me when I tell you, those belts are mine."

To get the belts, De La Hoya will have to confront the oddsmakers and beat a champion who's not only bigger and stronger but also hasn't lost in 11 years.

Based on his recent performances against Shane Mosley and Felix Sturm, the 2-1 odds against him seem correct. But De La Hoya says he's never wanted a fight more, and those who doubt him don't understand the fire inside.

"This is the fight where I just suck it up and let everything loose," De La Hoya said. "This is for all the marbles. This is the fight that will define my career." **AP**

### Paragua tastes first loss

**FIL** PINO International Master Mark Paragua's grandmaster bid got stalled in the eighth round Wednesday after he bowed to IM Roman Ovetchkin of Russia in the 2nd Alushta tournament in Crimea, Ukraine. It was the 20-year-old Filipino's first loss since the eighth round of the 1st Alushta tournament where he earned his second GM result. Paragua dropped to solo fifth with 5.0 points and need to score six points in the last seven rounds to become a full-fledged GM. **Marlon Bernardino**

### Tribo faces Escaner tonight

**PHILIPPINE** superbanlam boss Reynald Tribo (8-1, 4 KO's) of SGG Stable will defend his title for the first time when he faces veteran Alex Escaner (18-9-3, 8 KO's) of Marty Etorde Stable in a 12-round showdown tonight in San Juan, Manila. The fight will headline the "Ring-side TV Boxing Goes to San Juan" fight card being put up by Etorde at the Plaza San Juan along Domingo Street. In the chief support, RP No. 6 bantam Eider Romero of the Marty Etorde Stable tangles with Roberto Moreno in an explosive tangle. **Salvador L. Lagumbay**

### Sports ed's aunt dies

**MARY** Gutierrez, aunt of Malaya sports editor Jimmy Carter, died last Saturday due to asthma. She was 76. She is survived by her children Mariano, Edith, Dominic and Juliet and grandchildren. Her body lies in state at the Funeraria Paz on Araneta Ave. and will be cremated later this week.

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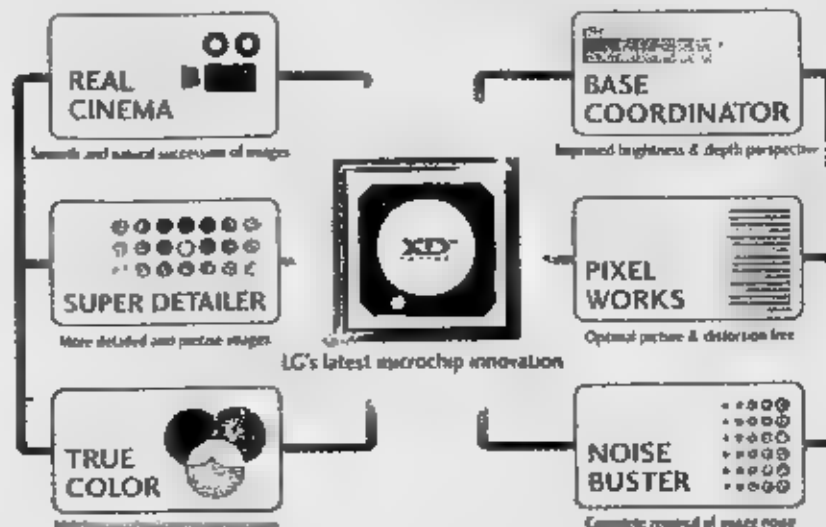
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## SPORTS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2004

# Big field seen in Platinum Cup b'minton

AT LEAST 60 teams from Metro Manila's badminton courts are expected to slug it out for berths to the national finals in five elimination legs starting next month in the first National Inter-Club Platinum Cup, a tournament co-sponsored by Inquirer Badminton Monthly and Globe Platinum.

The field in the event dubbed as Battle of the Courts will dispute area supremacy for

five straight weekends in October. The eventual champions will earn tickets to the grand finals where a Bangkok holiday awaits members of the winning team.

As of yesterday, 45 courts have already confirmed participation ahead of the meeting of team captains and sponsors on Sept. 24 at the National Sports Grille in Makati.

More than P500,000 in prizes are at

stake in the first-ever tournament for badminton courts also sponsored by Mizuno-Master Sports and Philippine Airlines, with Gerflor Taraflex sports flooring as the official mat.

For inquiries, call the INQUIRER BADMINTON office at 8978808 locals 259 or 261. Look for Ching dela Cruz.

Host venues are Intramuros Badminton Center for

the West sector (Caloocan, Valenzuela, Malabon and Marikina) on Oct. 2-3; the West Drive Badminton Center for the East sector (Pasig, Marikina, Rizal) on Oct. 9-10; the Olivarez College Sports Complex for the South sector (Muntinlupa, Alabang, Las Piñas, Parañaque and Taguig) on Oct. 16-17; The Zone and Yonex Badminton Center for Central (Makati, Mandaluyong and San Juan) on Oct. 23-24 and The Olympic Badminton Club for the North sector (Quezon City) on Oct. 30-31.

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October 2-3 Intramuros Badminton Center

**EAST (Pasig, Marikina, Rizal)**  
October 9-10 West Drive Badminton Center

**SOUTH (Alabang, Muntinlupa, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Taguig)**  
October 16-17 Olivarez College Sports Complex

**NORTH (Quezon City)**  
October 30-31 The Olympic Badminton Club

**CENTRAL (Makati, Mandaluyong, San Juan)**  
October 23-24 Yonex Badminton Center

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For Chie Aro, there are a thousand and one reasons why people should visit Ever Gotesco Malls frequently. And these reasons are read by hundreds of thousands of readers through Libre. She knows that Libre is worth Ever Gotesco's investment.

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Texters' messages R printed in Tuesday's InqBox will each receive a Geyto stuffed toy!

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www.oakwood.com

## Lose weight, manage stress at Mandarin Oriental's yoga studio

WITH CLASSES conducted by Mandarin Oriental, Manila's resident Yoga instructor Prakash Singh Bisht, the highly popular Yoga for Weight-Loss Program returns for more six-session courses at the hotel's Yoga Studio. Mandarin Oriental is the only hotel in the country to date that has built a yoga studio to complement its wellness facilities, and employs a full-time yoga instructor who hails from Rishikesh, considered the birthplace of Yoga.

The schedule for the weight-loss program is as follows: Sept. 20 to Oct. 2, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; Oct. 4 to 16 and Oct. 18 to 30 8:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m., and 7:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Course fee is P2,500 for six sessions.

Raja Yoga Meditation is another course offered, which will teach students how proper meditation and breathing can help reduce stress and manage anger.

The meditation courses are offered from Sept. 20 to Oct. 2, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday; Oct. 4 to 16, 8:15-9:15 a.m., and 7:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Course fee is



P2,000 for six sessions.

Yoga for Back Pain, another course that is very much in-demand, returns on Oct. 18 to 30, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 8:15

a.m. to 9:15 a.m., and 7:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

For inquiries on the Yoga Studio's special courses and general yoga sessions, call 750-8888 extension 2105.



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IN SEPTEMBER

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truly a sumptuous

treat to enjoy at

P900 net for the

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net per slice.

Available from

Sept. 1 to 30, in all

restaurants and

bars.

Spirited Ripple—Watch this cocktail make waves. A delightful blend of vodka, triple sec, brown sugar syrup, fresh watermelon juice, fresh mango juice and a drop of calamansi juice at P180 net per glass and P300 net per glass for Room Service. This is available from Sept. 1 to 30 in all restaurants and bars.



## Alternative meeting venue in Puerto Princesa

ASTURIAS Hotel, preferred for its ideal location and convenient accessibility from Puerto Princesa Airport, creates the "Conference Package" to offer convention and meeting organizers the flexibility in holding company events away from the city. The hotel's Virginia Hall and function rooms can accommodate every client's needs and has become a popular venue for meetings and conventions in Puerto Princesa.

The "Conference Package" includes three days and two nights accommodation, roundtrip airport transfers, buffet breakfast, buffet lunch, and buffet dinner throughout the duration of the conference. Package also includes a.m. and p.m. snacks and free flowing coffee and candies during the function and complimentary use of the Conference Room and meeting facilities. As an added privilege, participants are given complimentary usage of the swimming pool and Jacuzzi and free access to the hotel's Sea-

nario Bar. For a minimum of 30 persons, this limited offer is priced at only P4,400 net/person (twin/triple sharing) and P3,900 net/person (quadruple sharing) and is valid until Dec. 31.

For inquiries about the "Conference Package" of Asturias Hotel, call the Manila sales office at the 13th floor 6780 Jaka Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City at 751-3615, fax 751-3616, visit [www.asturiashotel.ph](http://www.asturiashotel.ph), or e-mail [info@asturiashotel.ph](mailto:info@asturiashotel.ph).

The 'Conference

Package' includes three

days and two nights

accommodation,

roundtrip airport

transfers, buffet

breakfast, buffet lunch,

and buffet dinner

## The Bellevue Hotel donates to Ospital ng Muntinlupa

THE BELLEVUE Hotel recently donated vital medical equipment to the Ospital ng Muntinlupa as part of its efforts to help the community. Fulfilling its corporate social responsibility to the hilt, Aabang's first full-service business and leisure hotel undertakes various projects to support the local

government's programs.

Proceeds from two of Bellevue's highly successful events—the 1st Annual Bellevue Cup and Filipino Art in Focus by Aabang's Finest—were used to purchase nebulizers, bassinets, ambulances and other valuable instruments to the hospital's Pediatric Ward.

The Bellevue's strong involvement in local government programs is not limited to charitable contributions. The hotel also opens its doors to special children in need of special education through a dedicated on-the-job training program. Last year, the Bellevue bagged the Healthy Hotel Award and passed the Philippine Health Promotion Program Standards because of its environment friendly practices.

For inquiries, call 771-8181

### The Bellevue's

strong

involvement in

local government

programs is not

limited to

charitable

contributions

## German Month at the New World Renaissance Hotel

THE NEW World Renaissance Hotel, in coordination with the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines "German Month", will feature a special German a la carte menu at the hotel's Coffee Shop for the entire month of October. Savor palate-pleasing traditional choices that start with "Small Plates and Broths" (Appetizers and Soups) such as: Strammer Max (Toasted Rye Bread topped with Ham & Fried Egg), Linseneintopf (Lentil Soup with Smoked Bacon and Garden Vegetables) and Erbsensuppe (Pea Soup served with Toasted Sour Dough Bread and Cream). The

German menu also includes hearty "Large Plates" (Entrées) namely: Grilled Nuremberg Sausages on Sauerkraut, Leberkaese (German Meat Loaf), Rheinischer Sauerbraten (Marinated Braised Beef Brisket with Dumplings and Apple Sauce), among others delicious choices. "Sweet Endings" perfectly cap the authentic German meal with Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte (Black Forest Gateau), Quark-Strausskuchen (Milk Strudel Cake) and Pfauenkuchen (Peacock Cake).

For more information and reservations, call 8116888.

## Rio Bar Cafe's September promo

RIO Bar Café and Restaurant is coming up with delicious, tempting and exciting new treats this September.

Relax and spend your best hours with us. Drink All You Can

specials of San Miguel Draft Beer at only P300 net. Promo is available from Mondays to Saturdays from 4 to 8 p.m. only.

Come and try the mouth-watering Filipino Set Menu. Buf-

fer, an all you can eat set menu plus one round of iced tea for only P180 net. This sweet sensation is available only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. only.

For reservations and inquiries visit The Rio Bar Café and Restaurant, lobby level of The Executive Plaza Hotel, A. Mabini Street, Malabon, Manila. You can also call 523 1000 local 314 and 365.





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11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:30

2 13 GOING ON 30 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	3 THE TERMINAL 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00	4 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
5 FENG SHUI 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	6 MINDHUNTERS 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	7 GODSEND 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
8 ANACONDAS 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	9 THE NOTEBOOK 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00	10 DODGEBALL 11:10, 1:28, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays  
Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas  
Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P55 for one level cinemas

### ERMITA

536-7889 to 12

1 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	2 MINDHUNTERS 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	3 13 GOING ON 30 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50	4 ANACONDAS 10:40, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40
5 DODGEBALL 11:00, 1:25, 3:45, 6:05, 8:25	6 FENG SHUI 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	7 THE TERMINAL 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45	

### METRO EAST

682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1 MINDHUNTERS 11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10	2 DODGEBALL 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00		
3 THE TERMINAL 10:45, 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45	4 ANACONDAS 10:05, 12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 9:00	5 THE NOTEBOOK 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40	
6 13 GOING ON 30 10:25, 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30	7 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING 1:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 10:30	8 FENG SHUI 10:10, 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30	

### MOVALIUM

835-3228 / 31

1 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING	2 MINDHUNTERS	3 FENG SHUI	4 ANACONDAS	5 THE TERMINAL	6 13 GOING ON 30	7 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING	8 DODGEBALL
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### Citiquara MALABON

288-0585/2575

1 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING	2 FENG SHUI	3 DODGEBALL	4 ANACONDAS
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### LIPA

757-3664 / 312-5870

1 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS	2 THE STEPFORD WIVES	3 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2	4 FENG SHUI	5 ANACONDAS
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### CAINTA

240-4661

1 13 GOING ON 30	2 FENG SHUI	3 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING	4 ANACONDAS
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### STA. ROSA

404-837-0907

1 ANACONDAS	2 13 GOING ON 30	3 FENG SHUI	4 THE TERMINAL	5 DODGEBALL
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### DASMARIÑAS

452-2125 / 416-4332

1 HAUNTED SPIRITS 2	2 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2	3 FENG SHUI	4 TAG-NIT	5 DODGEBALL
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### ANGELES "NOW OPEN"

1 TROY	2 THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW	3 MANO PO 2	4 FILIPINAS
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### STARMILLS

875-7927 / 885-8878

1 GODSEND	2 JANDARA	3 FENG SHUI	4 THE TERMINAL	5 ANACONDAS	6 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
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### IMUS

471-8108 / 875-5858

1 ANACONDAS	2 13 GOING ON 30	3 THE TERMINAL	4 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING	5 FENG SHUI	6 HAUNTED SPIRITS 2
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### BACOLOD

1 ANACONDAS	2 FENG SHUI	3 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2	4 THE STEPFORD WIVES	5 LAWS OF ATTRACTION	6 THE MISSING
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### ILOILO

1 ANACONDAS	2 HAMOG	3 GODSEND	4 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2	5 FENG SHUI	6 CONNIE AND CARLA
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AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

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# See'em all!



## AYALA CINEMAS



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ATC	G1	G4	GB3	ACC
1 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING	1 13 GOING ON 30	1 13 GOING ON 30	1 THE TERMINAL	1 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
2 13 GOING ON 30	2 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING	2 MINDHUNTERS	2 THE TERMINAL	2 THE TERMINAL
3 FENG SHUI	3 THE TERMINAL	3 FENG SHUI	3 FENG SHUI	3 FENG SHUI
4 MINDHUNTERS	4 FENG SHUI	4 DODGEBALL	4 THE NOTEBOOK	4 SPARTAN
5 THE TERMINAL		5 THE NOTEBOOK	5 THE NOTEBOOK	5 DIARIES 2

## At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	TOWN	AYALA CENTER
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## ENTERTAINMENT LINE!

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GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES featuring ACOUSTIC ANTHOLOGY September 17, 7:00 to 10:00pm	NEO CORPO ART EXHIBIT Sept. 18-30 (Greenbelt 3 Lobby)

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Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart).  
Or log on to [www.sureseats.com](http://www.sureseats.com) for web reservations.

**Lovemail!**

A30

## Auditions set for new...

From page A32

ment of Acceptable  
Excerpts of its  
evaluation:

"As usual, a Tom Hanks film offers the viewer unadulterated pleasure. Hanks delights as he fumbles his way into the English language and improvises in order to survive. Also perfect is Stanley Tucci as the beleaguered immigration bureaucrat unwittingly challenged by the honest simplicity of Hank's immigrant character.

"Steven Spielberg's touch is evident in this gentle comedy where everything seems true and real. The audience laughs a lot, but it is laughter that is sympathetic.

"The film mirrors the uncertainties of life in this age of political instability. What is heartwarming is that the immigrant is able to rise above his difficulties. The film is a tribute to the human spirit and its ability to transcend unforeseen crises.

## 'Zoids'

SEPT. 17 at 7:30 p.m., "Zoids: Fuzors (Toonami): Years after the New Century, the Zoids have taken their battles to the coliseum, and a new type of Zoid emerges—the Fuzor.

In today's episode, RD is determined to combine Liger Zero and Fire Phoenix, but after several attempts, he is no closer to bringing the two Zoids to fusion. When a battle ensues with Blake, who has a fused Zoid and can easily take on most opponents, will RD finally get his Zoids to fuse and create a super Zoid?

## Rico J and Ethel

RICO J. Puno stars in "Macho Guapito, Matamis na Bao, Atbp." on Oct. 13 at Metro Concert Bar on West Avenue in Quezon City. Sharing the spotlight with him is sexy singer-comedienne Ethel Booba, who might be called Rico J's female counterpart. Other guests are O.J. Mariano and the Montserrat Male Choir. Call 374-7505

## 'Tad Jock'...

From page A31

Wazzup" is celebrating the start of its third season with an hour-long celebration and party.

This special episode will be aired live from Expo Ex change in Greenbelt 1 in Makati City.

You can make your voice heard in this search by texting WAZZUP <space> VOTE <space> Name of Questionable and sending your vote to 2366.



ROBBY David





JAYA



ELIZABETH Ramsey

# 'Best of Both' at Museum

THE MUCH-AWAITED concert of mother and daughter Elizabeth Ramsey and Jaya, billed as "Best of Both," happens at the Music Museum tonight and tomorrow night.

It will mark the very first time the two women will be performing together in a full-length concert.

"We have waited so long for something like this to happen," said Jaya.

Elizabeth will be doing those Caribbean and rock and roll medleys that she has been famous for. And she will certainly make the crowd roll on the aisles with her humor.

Jaya will be doing those numbers as well as

"Dah! Tangang Ikaw," "Wala na Bang Pag-ibig," "Laging Naron Ka," "Dah! ba sa Kanya," among many others.

Gerard Salonga is the show's musical director. Stage direction is by Al Quinn.

The show's official radio stations are Joey 92.3 and Crossover 105.1.

For ticket inquiries, call Artist House at 817-4660, 815-1953, Artist House Inc. at 884-2183, 884-2220, or Music Museum at 721-0635, or 721-6726.



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1	13 GOING ON 30 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:10 PG-13
2	THE EXORCIST 11:45, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:20 R-13
3	THE TERMINAL 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:20 R
1	FENG SHUI 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 10:20 PG-13

landmark commercial

1 13 GOING ON 30  
11:00, 1:45, 3:30, 5:45  
8:00, 10:15  
PG-13

2 EXORCIST  
11:00, 10:30, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10  
R-13

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## NOW SHOWING

MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

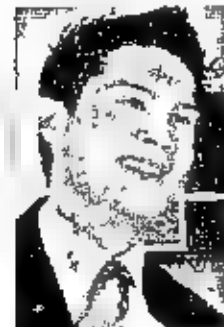
THE EXORCIST

PG-13

## OPENS SEPT. 22

THEY SHOULD HAVE LEFT HIM ALONE

THE BOURNE SUPREMACY



JC Cuadrado

# 'Tad Jock' search ends tonight

THE MOMENT of truth has arrived for talented newcomers JC Cuadrado, Robby David and KC Reyes.

All three are competing to become Studio 23's wackiest news reporter in "Wazzup Wazzup's" Tad Jock Quest on ables search, which ends at 7 p.m. Also tonight, "Wazzup

TAD JOCK / A30



KC Reyes

## OPENS SEPTEMBER 22

MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

### A HONEYMOON IN HELL

TARA REID

KIP PARDUE

### HEAVEN'S POND

## OPENS SEPTEMBER 22

MTRCB PG-13

"MORE WIT AND DARING THAN 'MEAN GIRLS'"

KENT TURNER FILM-FORWARD.COM

Mandy Moore

Jena Malone Macaulay Culkin Patrick Fugit

# Saved!

MEET THE STUDENTS OF A.E.C. HIGH.  
HEAVEN HELP US.











# For Mark Joseph, his past...

From page A36



other people to me. Now, I take patients by appointment only."

Joseph has decided to concentrate on his medical practice and now sells medical equipment, rice, corporate giveaways and "anything and everything."

"I like being in sales," he says. "Money comes fast in sales, unlike in the movies where there is a waiting spell before your next project. It is not difficult to sell and make money, unlike in the movies where you could lose everything."

Turning "corporate," Joseph shaved his beard which, during his movie phase, was his trade mark. "People would not take me seriously if I still had a beard," he says. "Some were even scared to deal with me. I just kept a moustache."

## 'Idol'

He also joined a Rotary Club in Quezon City, perhaps to reaffirm his new persona as a responsible citizen.

"I have been a Rotarian for only a year and a half," he says. "I joined because I wanted to serve the community. This is what Rotary is all about."

But his past as a bold actor continues to haunt Joseph.

"When I meet people and they find out that I was Mark Joseph, they are amazed. There are people who tell me I'm their idol, that they've seen my various action films. But there are also people who talk in whispers behind my back. Mainly, they describe me as the bold actor. It's a reputation that's hard to live down. There is still a tinge of malice to the tag. But once they get to know me, they see a different person."

He claims he has never been ashamed of his past even if he's not exactly proud of it. "I don't hide it," he says. "I just don't want to hype it."

## Civic duty

He still has other dreams. "I was toying with the possibility of entering politics," he admits. "But the time is not yet ripe. I am now concentrating on being a supporter of politicians who I know will do the country good."

During the last elections, Joseph campaigned for actor Bong Revilla and Mar Roxas, who both won as senators.

"They have a vision for the country," he says. "I believe in what they want to do for us, so I even went to Cebu to campaign actively for them."

As part of his civic duty, Joseph has also searched for products that would help uplift the lives of the rural farmers.

"I have made connections with a supplier of a brand of fertilizer from Russia, which could be sold to farmers at cheap prices," says Joseph. "I thought of this because agriculture is part of President Arroyo's program."

Show business, however, still rears its head in Joseph's life. In 2001, he made a movie which started new screen stud Aiken Dixon. As usual, Joseph cannot recall its due.

# MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

## MOVIE GUIDE

### NOW SHOWING

<b>PREMIERE THEATRE</b> <b>MINDHUNTERS</b> 1. 10:00 PM 2. 12:00 AM 3. 1:00 AM 4. 2:00 AM 5. 3:00 AM 6. 4:00 AM 7. 5:00 AM 8. 6:00 AM 9. 7:00 AM 10. 8:00 AM	<b>13 GOING ON 30</b> PG-13 1. 10:00 PM 2. 12:00 AM 3. 1:00 AM 4. 2:00 AM 5. 3:00 AM 6. 4:00 AM 7. 5:00 AM 8. 6:00 AM 9. 7:00 AM 10. 8:00 AM	<b>FENG SHUI</b> PG-13 1. 10:00 PM 2. 12:00 AM 3. 1:00 AM 4. 2:00 AM 5. 3:00 AM 6. 4:00 AM 7. 5:00 AM 8. 6:00 AM 9. 7:00 AM 10. 8:00 AM	<b>THE TERMINAL</b> PG 1. 10:00 PM 2. 12:00 AM 3. 1:00 AM 4. 2:00 AM 5. 3:00 AM 6. 4:00 AM 7. 5:00 AM 8. 6:00 AM 9. 7:00 AM 10. 8:00 AM	<b>EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING</b> R-13 1. 10:00 PM 2. 12:00 AM 3. 1:00 AM 4. 2:00 AM 5. 3:00 AM 6. 4:00 AM 7. 5:00 AM 8. 6:00 AM 9. 7:00 AM 10. 8:00 AM	<b>THE NOTEBOOK</b> PG 1. 10:00 PM 2. 12:00 AM 3. 1:00 AM 4. 2:00 AM 5. 3:00 AM 6. 4:00 AM 7. 5:00 AM 8. 6:00 AM 9. 7:00 AM 10. 8:00 AM	<b>FENG SHUI</b> PG-13 1. 10:00 PM 2. 12:00 AM 3. 1:00 AM 4. 2:00 AM 5. 3:00 AM 6. 4:00 AM 7. 5:00 AM 8. 6:00 AM 9. 7:00 AM 10. 8:00 AM	<b>THE 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**VEEJAYS Sarah Maier and KC Montero show off their MTV Credit Card.**

## MTV Credit Card here

It's hot, it's fashionable and it's smart to flash around. Today's young people won't be caught without one. It's the new MTV Credit Card and it's finally coming here.

The most coveted card that is making waves in Singapore and Malaysia, MTV Credit Card will have its official launch in the Philippines today at the Temple Bar.

MTV Credit Card is made possible by MTV Asia and Equitable CardNetwork Inc., the same team that brought you the hip MTV Debit Card. Aside from the convenience of Visa network's ready credit facility, it also offers a humongous bundle of perks and privileges such as discounts, freebies, exclusive invites to special events and more.

MTV Credit Card members enjoy extensive benefits in clubbing, craving fashion, entertainment, health and beauty, pampering and indulgence, gadgets and gizmos, trips and getaways courtesy of hundreds of merchant partners.

Watch for details coming your way. The most loaded credit card in town—MTV Credit Card.

## Winston in Concert goes to Naga

WINSTON in Concert's "Amplified National Tour" presents First Circle band at Roberto's at Villa Caceres Hotel, Naga City, today.

The live concert coincides with Naga's historic Peñafrancia Festival. The popular fiesta, which attracts pilgrims from all over the country and honors Our Lady of Peñafrancia, is celebrated every third Sunday of September in Naga City.

After a novena in honor of the Virgin of Peñafrancia at the Naga Cathedral, the holy image, following the Naga river route, is returned to her shrine in a chapel at Nueva Caceres.

From tonight to early Saturday morning, First Circle will entertain pilgrims at Roberto's at Villa Caceres Hotel.

The biggest Winston in Concert to date, "Maximum Live," will be presented Sept. 24, at SM Megastore, featuring Friends of Prime Council and Toy Symphony and sponsored by Lone Star Light and Jam 88.3.

### SHANG CINEPLEX

<b>1</b> 13 GOING ON 30 FS: 12:00PM, 2:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:30PM LRP: 3:00PM MPAA Rating: PG-13	<b>3</b> THE TERMINAL FS: 1:00AM, 2:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:30PM LRP: 3:00PM MPAA Rating: PG
<b>2</b> FENG SHUI FS: 12:00PM, 2:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:30PM LRP: 3:00PM MPAA Rating: PG-13	<b>4</b> The Beginning FS: 7:30PM, 9:00PM, 10:30PM, 12:00AM LRP: 8:00PM MPAA Rating: PG-13

**PREMIERE THEATRE**

**MINDHUNTERS**  
 FS: 11:00AM, 1:00PM, 3:00PM, 5:00PM, 7:00PM  
 LRP: 3:00PM  
 MPAA Rating: PG-13

For more information, please call 833-2227 / 833-7981. M-F 12-6

**SAY GOODBYE TO THE OLD TIMES NOW!**

**OPENS SEPT. 29**

## #1 MOVIE IN AMERICA

MILLA JOVOVICH

# RESIDENT EVIL: Apocalypse

COMING SOON

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*The fun is in the finds*

## cinemas! cinemas!

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1	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
2	13 GOING ON 30
3	MINDHUNTERS
4	FENG SHUI
5	THE TERMINAL
6	DODGEBALL
7	THE NOTEBOOK

**events! events!**

**HALO-HALO! BACK TO BACK ENTERTAINMENT FINDS!**

**Sept 16**  
Thurs. 6:30pm  
Fireworks Display  
Central Plaza

**Sept 17**  
Friday 6:00pm  
Jimmy Bondoc and Barbie's Credits  
Activity Center

**Sept 18**  
Saturday 4:30pm  
Regine Velasquez and Aba-fallen  
Activity Center

**Sept 19**  
Sunday 5:00pm  
Pia Pascual and Jay-R  
Activity Center

Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc. Another retail innovation.

# LIVE

**SM CITY NORTH EDSA**  
3-day sale

**SM CITY SOUTH MALL LAS PINAS**

**SM MEGAMALL ORTIGAS**

**SM CITY MANILA**

**SM CITY BACOR**

**SM CITY FAIRVIEW**

**SM CITY BACUTAN**

**SM CITY DASMARINAS**  
3-day sale

**SM CITY MARILAO**

**SM CITY STA. MESA**  
3-day sale

**SM CITY BACOD**

**SM CITY SUPERCENTER SUCAT**  
3-day sale

**SM CITY PAMPANGA**

**3-day sale**

**GMA**

**UP EMI**



[illegible]

Doc ID: 140281, Rev. 1

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# BUSINESS

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo  
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

BO

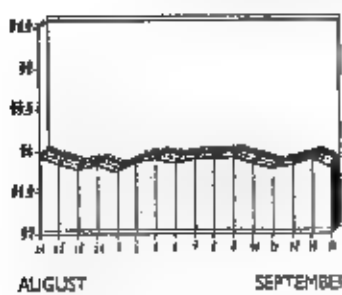
**THINNING HAIR?**

Call Swanson at 892-HAIR (4247)

## GSIS goes after P40B in contributions

### INDICATORS CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



**P 56.19 = \$1**  
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 16, 2004

**Y 109.72 = \$1**  
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 16, 2004

**GOLD: \$403.90-404.40**  
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 16, 2004

### STOCK MARKET

#### Stocks down, profit taking continues

SHARE prices closed down 0.83 percent yesterday as profit takers continued to cash out of the market after its recent run-up to four-year highs, dealers said.

An overnight downturn on Wall Street also weighed on sentiment, they added.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index ended down 14.22 points at 1,691.86 after trading between 1,885.88 and 1,712.92.

The broader all-shares index ended 6.76 points lower at 1,065.93. Losers outnumbered gainers 38 to 35, while 51 stocks ended unchanged.

Volume turnover rose to 2.62 billion shares worth P647.9 million from 908.79 million shares worth P528.49 million on Wednesday.

"The market is taking a healthy, well-deserved rest. I don't know whether it will be an extended one," said Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities.

Top-traded Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. fell P20 to P1,350 while Globe Telecom fell P15 to 1,005. Pilipino Telephone retreated 5 centavos to P2.75.

Shopping mall developer SM Prime fell 10 centavos to P6.

San Miguel Corp. saw its B shares, available to foreigners, fall P1.50 to P68.50 but San Miguel A ended unchanged at P57.50. **AFP**

By Michelle V. Remo

STATE pension fund Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) said it would go after several government agencies for some P40 billion in unremitted employees' contributions.

The GSIS refused to name these agencies, but stressed that it would not shoulder the full benefits of retiring employees of the agencies in question.

GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia said the pension fund had already put in place the so-called premium-based policy, under which the GSIS would pay a member only

the amount of benefits commensurate to the contributions remitted by his employer to the pension fund.

"This means that if an employee has been in government service for 35 years but has only 10-year worth of contributions remitted to the GSIS, we will pay him only the amount equivalent to 10 years," said Garcia in a press briefing.

The same rule applies to state employees who will voluntarily retire under the government's streamlining program.

The program was estimated to cost P15 billion. Under the program, employees of agencies or offices deemed the least necessary can opt to retire voluntarily. This was aimed at cutting government expenses and easing the country's budgetary woes.

The amount required for the streamlining program is on top of the average of P26 billion that the GSIS is spending yearly for pension payments.

For this program, the national government had requested a \$300-million loan from the World Bank, which was processing the loan application and expected to make a decision on the government's request next year.

In the meantime, the GSIS said it had posted a gross revenue of P60.02 billion in 2003, and expected its revenue to hit at least P62.33 billion this year. It added that for 2003, expenses for the payment of benefits accounted for only 7.33 percent of its total revenue. For 2004, its expenses were estimated at 6.43 percent of revenue.

## US businessmen back GMA reform agenda

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Ronnel W. Domingo

AMERICAN businessmen have given the thumbs up to President Macapagal-Arroyo's move to undertake "painful" reforms in solving the country's ongoing fiscal crisis and projected power crisis.

This was revealed by RP-US Business Council chair Ramon R. del Rosario Jr., who accompanied 40 CEOs and key executives of American firms to a meeting with President Arroyo and her economic managers over lunch in Malacañang on Wednesday.

In an e-mail to the *Inquirer*, del Rosario said: "The US delegation expressed admiration and very strong support for the President's reform agenda, particularly on the decisive steps being taken to address the country's fiscal problems and to assure a reliable supply of electricity in the future."

The American businessmen urged the President to continue

pursuing aggressively the major revenue measures needed to boost government revenues and the implementation of full-cost based pricing for energy to attract fresh investments into the energy sector.

In the meantime, US Asean Business Council president Ernest Z. Bower, in a press briefing yesterday, said the country would need increased business promotion to improve its competitiveness in the US market, as Philippine exports to the US was expected to continue to drop.

The group said the end of the quota system on garments trade in January, as well as the impending implementation of security regulations such as a law on biosafety would contribute in the downturn of trade with the US.

Bower, the head of the US business delegation, also said his group would continue to lobby with the US government for a US-



PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo confers to Ernest Bower, president of the US-Asean Business Council, the Order of Sikatuna Lakan during rites held in Malacañang on Sept. 15, 2004. This was in recognition of Bower's contributions in the field of business.

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RAV4 4x2 (9.54% dp) M/T	1,048,000	100,000	82,393	56,684	44,979	32,405	26,440	22,433
RAV4 4x2 (50% dp)	1,048,000	524,000	43,913	30,140	23,877	17,128	13,919	11,758

## REVO

VARIANT	SRP	LOW DP	12	18	24	36	48	60
VX200 2.0 GAS A/T	970,000	100,000	74,910	51,536	40,902	29,468	24,043	20,396
VX240 2.4 DSL	958,000	100,000	78,507	52,835	41,745	30,075	24,539	20,830
SR 1.8 GAS A/T	896,000	100,000	68,235	46,944	37,260	26,844	21,903	18,578
GSX 2.0 GAS A/T	847,000	100,000	63,815	43,902	34,849	25,107	20,485	17,375
GLX 1.8 GAS A/T	807,000	100,000	60,206	41,420	32,881	23,689	19,328	16,392
GL GAS	698,000	100,000	50,373	34,655	27,517	19,824	16,175	13,715
DLX GAS (15.08%dp)	663,000	100,000	47,216	32,483	25,794	18,584	15,163	12,855
DLX GAS (50%dp)	663,000	331,500	27,625	18,417	14,261	10,230	8,313	7,014
DLX DSL	690,000	100,000	52,331	36,002	28,556	20,573	16,786	14,248

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## From page B1

The two countries are preparing a trade and investment framework agreement that will pave the way for the negotiations on a US-RP FTA.

During the meeting with the President and her economic team, the US businessmen raised several issues that they said the government should look into. These included the full implementation and funding of the Optical Media Law (which tightens rules against piracy of music, movie and software CDs and DVDs), full implementation of the cargo open skies policy at the Diosdado Macapagal Airport at Clark, and a stop to the entry of second hand vehicles into the country via Subic

The US trade mission, consisting of 21 companies, is the largest business mission from the US to the country in recent years. Members of the mission include officials of The Boeing Co., Citigroup, FedEx, UPS, Philip Morris, General Motors, Ford Motor Co., Microsoft, Unysis Corp and E. Paso Energy.

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# BUSINESSFriday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

## PR practice: Urgent need for re-imaging

By Dante M. Velasco  
Contributor

EVERYONE agrees, including Al Ries, author of the best-selling book, "The Fall of Advertising & the Rise of PR," that public relations has become many organizations' favorite or powerful instrument when it comes to developing a new brand, changing a mindset, and rallying people to support a cause.

Public Relations practice worldwide, has little or no problem with image. That is, because the practice is enabled by the science of research, no-nonsense management standards, and the fine art and science of strategy formulation and execution. Hill & Knowlton, Golin Harris, Burston-Marsteller, Ogilvy PR, Edelman—these global companies have fully developed standards of doing consulting business.

In the Philippines, however, the PR profession is drawing mixed reactions. Some reduce the job to simple press agency, others use it as a tool to hurt competition. Only recently, a publicist has admitted purveying a "column feed" that constituted a personal attack on a popular and controversial television host.

That's one reason public relations practice in the Philippines "ironically has an image problem," according to Pete Padre Jr., former president of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP), an organization that is geared to set its house in order today, beginning with the holding of a long-delayed election.

The profession needs a much needed push to be forward looking rather than resting on its laurels—or licking its wounds.

### Professionalize

Padre, former veteran journalist, points out: "Public relations, although it has been around for almost five decades, still has a long way to go to truly professionalize its ranks."

"I would like to see new PRSP leaders who will be role models for the young who are enamored by this rising communication discipline," says Charlie Agatep, former PRSP president and founder of Agatep & Associates. Agatep, who is one of the Convenor's Group—composed of past PRSP presidents—will preside over the polls on Friday, armed with an order from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

For 2004, the PRSP election was originally scheduled on Jan. 9, but it was postponed for an indefinite period, "depriving the members of their valuable right to elect their directors and officers once every year," points out Max Edralin Jr., a PR stalwart and head of the convenor's group.

The advent of global and local companies in the Philippines and elsewhere spurred the growth of PR as a management discipline through which organizations communicate to their stakeholders. The

"power of the third party endorsement," the clear advantage of PR, is increasingly being used by organizations—with great success.

### Drive young

Rene Nieva, president of the International Public Relations Association (Philippine chapter), sees a silver lining: "The PR profession continues to advance and develop with more and more well-educated, idealistic and driven young people going into it and doing quite well."

Viewed from PR's standpoint, advertising can actually be a powerful tool for PR's advocacy or educational campaigns. Advertising spaces and television "info-commercials" have been widely used to serve the ends of PR.

"PR is on the ascendancy," declares Manny Gutierrez, managing director of DDB Philippines.

An advertising man who realized the value of PR, Manny points out: "PR will continue to be relevant. A lot of companies are combining the merits of traditional PR (corporate PR), brand and MPR (which is about the consumer's relationship with the brand) with their advertising campaign. PR will not replace advertising, but it's a great part of a firm's promotions mix."

Broadly defined by Sonny Valencia of Coca Cola Bottlers, the "over-arching goal of public relations is to harmonize and create a state of high understanding between and among organizations and their respective stakeholders."

The practice of public relations continues to flourish. With that success, however, comes the problem of providing a vision to a profession that is attracting more and more young managers. With advances in telecommunications, the practice of public relations has become more challenging—and rewarding.

The umbrella organization of this profession, the PRSP, has not been forward-looking enough to match the giant strides of the practice. The relevance of such an organization has been questioned, when politics entered the picture.

Many agree, though, that a professional organization such as PRSP may not be needed by the veterans, but the young practitioners need a forum where they can test their new ideas, where the veterans become mentors and the young bring in energy and idealism.

The fate of the practice of PR does not hinge on the elections of PRSP today, but surely the success by which the turnover of leadership from one to the other is an indication about the maturity of the practitioners. It also says a lot about the political will of well-meaning members, not only to "set its house in order," but give it a much-delayed momentum.

(The author is chair and CEO of Creative Point Inc., Philippine affiliate of Hill & Knowlton.)

## Bank's first TV ad in 8 years hopes to tap broader base

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE CATCHPHRASE of the ad, "Saying ang miles" may have been thought of in the drawing room, but the line was uttered by a real con-

141 Worldwide executive creative director Cuts Guerrero says the group was cooking up the catchphrase for the new HSBC Mabuhay Miles TV ad when somebody from the agency explained that while in line in a supermarket, he actually heard a husband urging his wife to use the credit card to pay for groceries because "saying ang miles."

Apparently, the guy told the wife to use their HSBC Mabuhay Miles card to pay for the purchase to accumulate enough miles for free travel.

That anecdote became the main message of the HSBC ad.

The recently launched ad of HSBC or The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd. is the first local TV commercial of the British bank in eight years.

HSBC's image has always been with the A, B market largely because it is a foreign bank, which has been in the Philippines for over 100 years now.

141 group account director Paul Perez says "the perception is that HSBC is up there but the card is reaching out to a broader base. We are promoting it in the malls."

The TV ad shows a mother packing her clothes, preparing for a trip, in front of her teary-eyed son. She tells him that she works hard to buy him things. Then adds "saying ang miles."

The image conveyed by the ad is not A, B at all, as it adopts a telenovela story line.

What the ad is selling, of course, is greater use of the HSBC Mabuhay Miles, where for every P45 worth of purchase, you earn one mile.

Accumulating about 3,000 miles, which means paying for about P135,000 worth of goods and services, enables you to get one free ticket to a domestic flight in PAL to Kalibo,



THE LITTLE boy in the new HSBC Mabuhay Miles credit card TV commercial gives emotion to the ad's telenovela concept.

Legaspi, Naga, Roxas or Tuguegarao. PAL is the co-brand in the card.

Using the card to buy airplane tickets in PAL or Air Philippines also earns one mile.

The accumulation of miles is doubled or tripled depending on the type of card one holds and the shop one buys from.

"We wanted to talk to a broader base. Research tells us this is the market that spends seriously and is budget conscious. A lot of people are still cash oriented but using the credit card carries better value," says Guerrero.

He says adopting a telenovela concept enables a wider market to relate to the storyline. Most working mothers want to have some psychic reward

and travel is one of them.

HSBC manager, cards direct marketing, Rafael L. S. Montemayor, says the bank held a focus group discussion among cardholders and the bank realized that the Mabuhay Miles had the biggest potential.

However HSBC also learned that the cardholders thought that the rewards program was not achievable and that to get a free international flight, one would have to spend millions of pesos.

An international award chart of HSBC shows an accumulation of P675,000 worth of payments enables one to have a free ticket to Hong Kong, Taipei or Xiamen.

## Youth power to market a card

IN THE Philippines, MTV has been an influence in the lives of young Filipinos. With music as an effective tool for self expression, it provides the young with an accessible medium for a total music experience.

To fully express themselves, the MTV generation needed a personal imprint on their daily lives, a statement that shows what MTV is all about—cool, young, confident, creative and independent. Capitalizing on youth interest, MTV embarked on a 360-degree strategy to reach youths via on-air, online, on-the-ground, on-the-move (mobile) as well as product merchandising including radio, print and MTV-branded financial services, one of which is the MTV Credit Card.

A hit in Singapore, Malaysia, India and Brunei, the MTV Credit Card will be launched in the Philippines this month to give young Filipinos access to a new purchasing experience. It is the newest co-branded card between Equitable CardNetwork Inc. and MTV Networks Asia, the same team that brought to the country the MTV Debut Card.

Accepted in all Visa-accredited establishments worldwide and backed by hundreds of partner merchants, cardholder benefits include clubbing, craveng, fashion, entertainment, indulgence, escapades, gadgets and other things important to young people. There are also discounts, freebies, exclusive invites to events and places and other perks and privileges.

MTV Networks Asia vice president for network development, licensing and merchandising Christopher James said, "Although there are many credit cards available in the market, there are none specifically catered to



TERRY Chua and Christopher James

the needs of young people."

This card caters to 18 to 35-year-old young professionals. "Our research shows that this market segment in Asia has the highest purchasing power compared to the previous generations. Besides having a higher earning income, they are also savvy shoppers and generous spenders that consume quality products, often treating themselves, family and friends. They may choose to indulge things that reflect their current lifestyle and attitude," added James.

MTV Networks Asia is confident the card will be well-received in the Philippines. "We have observed that young people across the region display some similar traits in spending and beliefs. For one, they work hard to attain their desired lifestyle and often share views on living life to the fullest. The MTV Credit Card is highly relevant for them," MTV Networks Asia director for licensing and mer-

chandising Terry Chua explained.

In addition to the many benefits available in the Philippines, MTV Credit Card holders who travel in the region will also be able to enjoy the benefits extended in each country. That translates to immediate access to the hottest clubs locally and discounts at the various local stores.

The launch of MTV Credit Card in the Philippines can also be attributed to the success of the partnership with Equitable CardNetwork Inc., which has been a critical factor in ensuring quality service. Their network has earned them the lion's share of the local market in terms of cardholder base and gross sales volume.

Working in close partnership, the two companies are confident on the success of the MTV Credit Card in the Philippines and share a common belief in presenting the best and the most relevant benefits to cater to the young people in the nation.

## Wall Street Journal to launch Saturday edition by Sept. '05

IN AN effort to capture more readers and advertising dollars, Dow Jones & Co. is launching a Saturday edition of its flagship newspaper, The Wall Street Journal, beginning in September 2005, the company announced Wednesday.

The sixth daily edition of the paper, to be called Weekend Edition, is part of a broader effort to bring more consumer and lifestyle stories to the paper in order to reduce the Journal's heavy reliance on financial and technology advertising, which tends to fluctuate widely.

Just last week, Dow Jones warned investors that it would miss its previously announced forecasts for third quarter earnings due to a dropoff in advertising bookings for September.

"Accelerating the momentum the Journal has built in consumer advertising over the past two and a half years... should enable us to diversify and moderate cyclicalities in Journal ad revenues," Richard Zannino, the chief operating officer of Dow Jones, said in a statement.

Zannino said the launch would be "modest-

ly dilutive" to the company's earnings in 2005, but he did not elaborate.

Company spokeswoman Nicole Pyhel declined to disclose how much the company planned to spend on the launch, but she said it would involve hiring 150 new employees, most of them editors and reporters.

"Fridays are big news days, particularly for our core coverage," managing editor Paul Sterger told the paper's staff in an internal memo. "Publishing only five days a week has forced us to delay giving our readers our take on that news until Mondays, and has invited them to get that news from others."

The sixth daily edition of the paper would come at no additional cost to Journal subscribers, and they will have the option of having it delivered to a different address from where they get the paper on business days, Pyhel said.

Previous efforts to bring more consumer-oriented articles and advertising to the newspaper include the 1998 launch of Weekend Journal, a special section appearing Fridays that has proven to be a hit with advertisers, as well as the Personal Journal section, which was launched in 2002 and appears three days a week. AP

## Signs of the times: Pushes non-traditional media solutions

EVEN as the Philippine media industry suffers from scaled-down advertising budgets, rail marketing firm Trackworks is bent on pushing its initiative of non-traditional communications solutions. Its optimism is based on the Filipino's new-found love affair with the MRT.

"We've decided that it's time that advertisers consider options outside of traditional media,"

says Trackworks chief executive Lino Marable. He adds: "We all know that radio and TV placements cost a lot; at the same time, you have an influx of new media—primarily Web- and mobile phone-based—that are beginning to eat into the effectiveness of the traditional media. The challenge for us is to find a better way."

In Trackworks' case, the railway. Since Trackworks began sell-

ing advertising on the MRT two years ago as the latter's exclusive marketing agent, it has managed to convince clients of the magic of mass transit. After all, the MRT shuttles some 400,000 Filipinos everyday. To reach this market, Trackworks uses stickers, decals and posters inside the trains. In the stations, there are more of posters, standees and on certain days, even special events.

Outside of the MRT, the hundreds of thousands more who struggle along Edsa for their daily commutes are exposed to the sheer "bigness" of train wraps (customized stickers that cover entire trains) and the colorful billboards that line the MRT's support structures.

"For a price of one TV spot, we can give you a 16.1 km billboard 18 hours a day for 30 days," en-

thus Trackworks SEVP for sales and marketing Levi Cast II.

Already, the aggressive posture of Trackworks seems to be paying off. A significant number of its current clients are repeat customers.

"We're here to offer the advertising community new options—because that's the only way we will continue to grow," explains Leo Guico, Trackworks business development head. He notes that tech-

nology is changing the dynamics of the media industry, and this only emphasizes the need to deliver more eyeballs to advertisers, at the most optimal costs.

Apart from the advertising industry veterans Marable, Castillo and Guico, the management team at Trackworks includes sales EVP Babee Barreiro, finance manager Felizardo Lao and operations manager Ed Felix.











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Dermatol. 4-1, F. Steamer  
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PUBLIC  
NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late MANUEL Q. ALCANTARA and CONSUERO VELASCO ALCANTARA has been judicially settled among the heirs as per Dec. No. 431, Page No. 87 Book No. 424 Series of 2004 under Notary Public Atty Lucio M. Laves-Victor of Pasig City.  
(PDI-Sept. 9, 16 & 23, 2004)

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## NREA national confab

PLANNING and development officers of provinces, cities and municipalities have received clearance from the Civil Service Commission (CSC) for them to attend on official time the National Convention and Trade Exhibits of the National Real Estate Association (NREA), as part of their continuing education and career development.

The three-day convention, the single-biggest gathering of real estate professionals and housing industry practitioners, will be held on Sept. 23-25 at the SM Megatrade Hall Edsa, Mandaluyong city. It was announced by architect Nestor S Mangio, NREA National President.

Giving CSC Announcement No. 23 issued last Aug. 27, architect Nathaniel von Einsiedel, overall convention chairman, welcomed the CSC accreditation for the NREA con-

vention, saying that this will enable the planning officers of local government units to update their knowledge and skills on current practices as well as regulations in environment and town planning, to address the housing needs of their localities.

Practitioners who are non-members of NREA may call at tels 913-4463 and 912-3492 or register directly at the convention booth.

Focused on the theme, "Creating the New Filipino Community for the 21st Century," the convention will have for its plenary workshop - sessions the following topics: 1) Planning and Design - Emerging Concepts; 2) Development Regulations - Standards & Procedures; 3) Project Financing & Implementation - Techniques & Requirements; and 4) Project Marketing & Estate Management.

## SSC-R Manila celebrates SPDS week

THE SAN Sebastian College Recoletos de Manila is celebrating its 8th Students Placement and Development Services Week that is anchored on the theme "Reinventing Student Development Services Integrated Scheme Towards Excellence" on Sept. 20-24. One of the activities is a "Seminar Workshop on Compassion Fatigue: the Stress of Serving Others" designed for guidance counselors and other helping professionals who are actively involved in counseling in different

settings. The resource person is Dr. Johnny B. Decatoria, B.C.E.T.S. presently affiliated with the University of Santo Tomas-Graduate School Psychotrama Clinic. The seminar will be held on Sept. 24 from 8-4 pm at the HRM Coffee Shop of San Sebastian College-Recoletos. The seminar fee is P700 inclusive of seminar kit, lunch, snacks and certificate. For more information, please call Ana Aseron or Maricor Tuazon at 7348931 local 114 and 115.



## PETRON FLEET CARD SUPPORTS PMAP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Petron Fleet Card partners with the 41st Annual Conference of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) and Inks its sponsorship last Sept. 8, at the Petron Building in Makati City. Photo shows (from left) Charmaine V. Canillas (advertising manager) and Ramil Carman (card business manager); and president Oscar L. Contreras, Jr., FPM (Ayala Corporation's managing director), and Lina A. Aseneta, FPM (AC way and means sub-committee chairperson) of PMAP. The 41st PMAP AC, slated for Sept. 29, 30 and Oct. 1 at the CAP-John Hay Trade and Cultural Center, Loakan Road, Baguio City, is expected to be attended by over 1,000 business owners, people managers, HR practitioners, and students.

# GIA

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE  
**BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE**  
Bids and Awards Committee for Information Technology (BAC-IT)  
Quezon City

September 10, 2004

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Name of Project	PROCUREMENT OF FORTY (40) NOTEBOOKS
Location of the Project	Bureau of Internal Revenue
	Thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of Notice of Award
Approved Budget	P5,000,000.00
Source of Funding	e-Government Fund

All interested parties may obtain the bidding documents from the BAC-IT Secretariat, c/o Room 805, 8/F, BIR-National Office Bldg., BIR Road, Brgy. Puhunan, Dapitan, Quezon City starting September 14, 2004, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.

Pre-Bid Conference will be held on September 24, 2004, Friday at 2:00 p.m., at the Executive Conference Room, 3/F BIR-National Office Building, BIR Road, Brgy. Puhunan, Dapitan, Quezon City to be followed by the opening of the bids.

Deadline for the submission of eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals shall be on October 6, 2004, Wednesday at 1:30 p.m., to be held at the Executive Conference Room, 3/F BIR-National Office Building, BIR Road, Brgy. Puhunan, Dapitan, Quezon City to be followed by the opening of the bids.

All particulars relative to eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its implementing rules and regulations.

The BIR retains no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any excuse or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bids. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC-IT Secretariat, thru the Chief, SSTMO-IPDS at Room 302, 3/F, Revenue Computer Center (RCC) Bldg., BIR Compound, BIR Road, Brgy. Puhunan, Dapitan, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 981-7085 927-4101 981 7079 981 7080 and 926-3235 (telefax) or e-mail us at

(Sgd.) ATTY. LEONOR S. VILLALON-ROGERS  
Assistant Commissioner - IPDS  
Chairman, BAC-IT

(PDI Sept 16 & 17 2004)

Republic of the Philippines  
**CAREER EXECUTIVE SERVICE BOARD**  
No. 3 Macarino Street, Holy Spirit Drive, Dapitan, Quezon City 1127  
Tel. Nos. 951-4981 to 95 (Trunkline) / 951-3306 (Fax)  
Website: www.cesboard.gov.ph

**REVISED POLICY ON SECURITY OF TENURE IN THE CAREER EXECUTIVE SERVICE (CES)**

## Resolution No. 548

**WHEREAS**, Article IV, Part III of the Integrated Reorganization Plan, as approved by Presidential Decree No. 1, as amended dated September 24, 1972 created the Career Executive Service Board (CESB) to serve as the governing body of the Career Executive Service (CES) and is mandated by said law to promulgate rules, standards, and procedures on selection, classification, compensation and career development of members of the CES;

**WHEREAS**, in the case of Eugenio vs. Civil Service Commission (G.R. No. 115863) dated March 31, 1995, the Supreme Court ruled that from inception the CESB was intended to be an autonomous entity, albeit administratively attached to the Civil Service Commission;

**WHEREAS**, in the above-quoted case, the Supreme Court explained that under the Administrative Code of 1987 the purpose of attaching one functionally inter-related government agency to another is to attain "policy and program coordination";

**WHEREAS**, in the case of Secretary of Justice Serrano R. Cuevas vs. Bacal (G.R. No. 39382 dated December 6, 2000), the Supreme Court ruled that security of tenure in the career executive service is thus acquired with respect to rank and not to position and that the guarantee of security of tenure to members of the CES does not extend to the particular positions to which they may be appointed; a concept which is applicable only to first and second-level employees in the civil service but to the rank to which they are appointed by the President;

**WHEREAS**, in the case of Luis Mario M. General vs. Ramon S. Roco (G.R. No. 143366 dated January 29, 2001), the Supreme Court ruled that two requisites must concur in order that an employee in the career executive service may attain security of tenure, to wit: a.) CES Eligibility b.) Appointment to the appropriate CES rank;

**WHEREAS**, the above-stated rulings of the Supreme Court were based primarily on the policies, rules and regulations then of the CESB, which were quoted by the said court in the afore-cited cases;

**WHEREAS**, the above said policy set by the Board upon which the appropriate rank" ruling of the Supreme Court in the case of Roco vs. General was based has already been revised by the Board through CESB Resolution No. 466 s. 2002 which states, that a CESO is considered a permanent employee and, therefore, guaranteed security of tenure in the CES regardless of the CES position he/she occupies or the rank level to which he/she is appointed;

**WHEREAS**, Section 27 Chapter 5 Title I, Book V of Executive Order No. 292 otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987 provides that a permanent status of appointment shall be issued only to a person who meets all the requirements for the positions to which he/she is being appointed, including the appropriate eligibility prescribed, in accordance with the provisions of law, rules and standards promulgated in pursuance thereof;

**WHEREAS**, the Civil Service Commission, as the central personnel agency of the government mandated to promote merit and fitness in the civil service, has made a pronouncement through its policies that those who meet the qualification standards established for the position such as education, experience, training, physical characteristics and personality traits required by the job, and most importantly the appropriate eligibility shall be appointed on a permanent basis;

**WHEREAS**, in the interest of policy and program coordination, there is a need to harmonize the policies of the Board with that of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) on security of tenure, the Career Executive Service (CES) being part of the third level which is the highest among the three (3) levels of positions in the career service governed by the Civil Service Commission;

**WHEREAS**, the Board, cognizant of the need for consistency in the policy on security of tenure in the civil service, decided to revise the existing policy to conform with the Civil Service Commission criteria on permanent appointment, thus, setting CES Eligibility as an essential component of security of tenure in the CES;

**NOW THEREFORE**, foregoing premises considered, the Board **RESOLVES** as it is hereby **RESOLVED** to revise the policy on security of tenure in the Career Executive Service (CES) in conformity with the permanent policies of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) for third level qualified incumbents. Henceforth, attainment of CES Eligibility by an incumbent of a CES position is enough to enjoy security of tenure in the CES provided he or she has met the other basic requirements of the position established in the qualification standards set or approved by the Civil Service Commission based on the recommendation of the Department or Agency

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that notwithstanding the permanent status of appointment of a third level official, he/she is covered by the mobility principle enshrined under Article IV, Part III of the Integrated Reorganization Plan, as approved by Presidential Decree No. 1, as amended dated September 24, 1972, quoted herein as follows:

"a. Assignments, Reassignments and Transfers

xxx xxx xxx

Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding members of the Career Executive Service may be reassigned or transferred from one position to another; provided that such reassignment or transfer is made in the interest of public service and involves no reduction in rank or salary provided, further, that no member shall be reassigned or transferred oftener than every two years; xxx."

**RESOLVED FURTHERMORE**, that to ensure compliance to the above-quoted mobility principle, reassignment or transfer shall be effected only upon availability of the corresponding position, it being understood that a "floating" status is not within the contemplation of this principle. Assignment to a CESO pool shall not be considered as a floating status.

**RESOLVED FINALLY**, that the following provisions shall be taken as part and parcel of this resolution:

a.) If any provision or part of this resolution shall be held to be invalid, the remaining provisions shall be given full force and effect as if the part held invalid had not been included therein.

b.) All existing CESB rules and regulations, circulars and memoranda, which are inconsistent with this resolution are hereby repealed or amended accordingly, as the case may be.

c.) This resolution shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

**APPROVED**, this 10th day of August 2004 in Quezon City, Philippines.

**KARINA CONSTANTINO-DAVID**  
Chairperson

**RAMON F. NIEVA**  
Vice Chairman

**ASST. CHAIRMAN**  
**MA. CONCEPCION P. ALFILER**  
Member

**MEMBER**  
**GODOFREDO C. DE GUZMAN**  
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**PERDINAND S. CUI**  
Member

**MEMBER**  
**BOBBY V. DUMLAO**  
Member

**MEMBER**  
**CARINA S. VALENA**  
Member

Attested by:   
**BETTINA MARGARITA LAYUGAN**  
Acting Board Secretary

(PDI Sept. 17 2004)

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION**

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) invites all interested Deep Well Drillers to register for eligibility and to bid for the "Drilling and Installation of Communal Wells" at the Suburban Housing Project, in Rodriguez, Rizal.

Eligibility requirements may be obtained from the Technical Services Group, 4th Floor, Jade Building, 325 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, with telephone nos. 895-9015 to 16 and fax no. 887-4737 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00).

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

Scope of Work	Drilling and Installation of 58 Communal Wells (Hand Pump type)
Approved Budget for this Contract	Php7,624,000.00 (sourced from the Internal Cash Generation of HGC)
Submission of Letter of Intent and Issuance of Bid documents	September 20-23, 2004
Deadline for submission of eligibility requirements	September 23, 2004
Issuance of Notice of Eligible Bidders	October 7-8 2004
Pre-Bid Conference	October 27 2004
Opening of bids	November 06 2004

Bid documents shall be issued only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00).

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of HGC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, without offering any reason, waive any affect therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to HGC. HGC likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

(Sgd.) ATTY. LEONOR S. VILLALON-ROGERS  
Assistant Commissioner - IPDS  
Chairman, BAC-IT

(Sgd.) ARTHUR G. TAN  
Chairman  
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI Sept. 16 & 17 2004)



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B-10

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2004

# OBITUARIES

**Manila Memorial Park**  
Leading the Way  
SUCAT, Parangic - HOLY CROSS, Nivaliche - DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE  
Pondol, BULACAN - Libao, Cebu - Misaki, DAVAO  
(632) 845 1875 or 801; (632) 898 6574 to 77

*"Mommy, we love you so much,  
we'll miss you but we will never forget you"*

## CO SIOK HIAN LAO

(Wife of the late Luis Co Chi Kiat)

*Peacefully joined her Creator  
on September 14, 2004 at the age of 81.*

Her bereaved **children**: Andy (†) & Helen, William & Bethy Syhau, William & Belen Wong, Luis Jr. & Tessie, Lucio & Susan, Lino (†) & Melinda, Alex & Benita Chua, Lorenzo & Fe;  
**grandchildren**: Jennifer, Edgar, Sherwin, Sheryll, Cinderella & Patrick, Hudson, Joyce & Dickson, Mark, Aimee, Aline, Neil, Vincent, Pamela, Camille, Katrina, Beverly, Charmaine, Nikki, Robin, Edward (†), Benedick, Kenneth, Share, Michelle, Lino Jr., Gemalin;  
**greatgrandchild**: Chris Daniel;  
brother, in-laws, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends,  
request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at **Chapel 2 (new bldg.)**, **La Funeraria Paz**, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Chinese Cemetery on Monday, September 20 at 8:00 a.m.

*In lieu of flowers, donations to Luis Co Chi Kiat Foundation  
will be greatly appreciated.*

PMA Class '64 announces  
the untimely demise of:

### P/C SUPT. ENRIQUE A. PILAPIL (Ret.)

(November 25, 1938 – September 14, 2004)

His bereaved wife Angelina; children Moy, Jing and Emil, Ming, grandchildren Mikki, Carlo, Kaela, Isa, Nico; brothers and sisters, in-laws, classmates, and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola, Guadalupe, Makati, where necrological services will be held on September 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Interment at Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio will be on Sunday, September 19, 2004 at 12:00 noon.

Whoever  
finds  
his life  
will  
lose it,  
and  
whoever  
loses  
his life for  
my sake  
will  
find it.

Matthew 10:39

## SALOME "LUMING" PAZ GUEVARA

(October 22, 1924 – September 15, 2004)

HER HUSBAND

### JOSE "PEPE" GUEVARA

**CHILDREN**: ELENITA, EMMA & CARLOS;  
**IN-LAWS** JIMMY, ANGELITO & CORA;  
**GRANDCHILDREN** CHESTER, GIA, MELANIE,  
ERVIN, CARLO, CHRISTIAN, AIMEE,  
**GREAT GRAND DAUGHTER**: ANGEL  
request for your most gracious prayers.

Her remains lie in state at their residence in San Diego St.,  
Malanday, Marikina City

Interment is scheduled on Saturday, 18th of September, 2004  
at the Aglipay Cemetery Concepcion Uno  
after the 2 p.m. Mass.

"For God  
so loved  
the world,  
that  
He gave  
His only  
begotten  
Son,  
that  
whoever  
believes  
in Him  
shall not  
perish but  
have  
everlasting  
life."  
John 3:16

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want, He makes me lie down  
in green pastures. He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul.  
Psalm 23:1-3

### GEN. PAULINO E. SANCHEZ

PC (Ret.)  
PMA CLASS '43

Peacefully joined our Lord and his wife Leah on September 15, 2004 at the age of 86.

His children Willem and Grace, Dennis and Alice, Len, Bambu and Nene, Cha and Mabel, Taitu and Anne, Nenette and Julius, grandchildren, nephews and nieces thank the Lord Almighty for the many years of happiness that he shared with them.

His remains lie in state at the mortuary of St. Ignatius Cathedral, Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Interment will be on Sunday, September 19, 2004 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Filipino War Veterans Foundation Inc. (FVFI) would be appreciated.



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and condolences to the family, relatives  
and friends of

## **CO SIOK HIAN LAO**

(Mother of its Chairman Lucio L. Co)

*who peacefully passed away  
in the Grace of our Lord  
on September 14, 2004 at the age of 81.*

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 2,  
New Building, La Funeraria Paz,  
Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

The Stockholders, Board of Directors,  
Officers and Staff of



**PureGold Finance, Inc.**  
**PureGold Properties, Inc.**

Express their deep sorrow  
and their sincerest condolences  
to the family of

## **CO SIOK HIAN LAO**

(Mother of its Chairman Lucio L. Co)

*who peacefully joined her Creator  
on September 14, 2004.*

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 2,  
New Building, La Funeraria Paz,  
Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

"Yes, though I walk through the valley of the  
shadows of death, I will fear no harm; for Thou art with me;  
Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me."

The Stockholders, Board of Directors,  
Officers and Staff of



With its deepest sympathy  
offers its condolences to the family of

## **CO SIOK HIAN LAO**

(Mother of its Director Lucio L. Co)

*who peacefully joined her Creator  
on September 14, 2004.*

Her remains lie in state  
at Chapel 2, New Building,  
La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue,  
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(Mother of its Chairman Lucio L. Co)

*who peacefully joined her Creator  
on September 14, 2004.*

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 2,  
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## DEBT SERVICING

# BOP deficit hit \$127M in Aug.

By Doris C. Dumlas

THE PHILIPPINES paid out more dollars than what it received, leading to a balance of payments deficit in August of \$127 million.

This was the third straight month that the country incurred a deficit, mainly due to debt servicing, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The BSP report showed that the BOP hit a shortfall of \$127 million in August, bringing the eight-month deficit to \$222 million.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange

transactions between the Philippines and the rest of the world.

Its major components are current account and capital and financial account.

The current account records trade in goods and services, as well as transfers.

The capital and financial account, on the other hand, records loan transactions, investment flows, and short-term capital.

Imports and offshore investments contribute to a deficit, while exports and inward remittances lead to a surplus.

In the eight-month period, import and debt

servicing costs outpaced exports and remittances, thus, led to a deficit.

BSP Assistant Governor Diwa Guinigundo, however, said the August BOP was an improvement from the \$163-million deficit posted in July and the \$412 million recorded in the same month last year.

The January-August shortfall of \$222 million was also much lower than the \$646-million deficit posted in the same period last year.

"It's just in line with our expectation of a \$500-million deficit this year," Guinigundo said.

The BSP earlier scaled down its BOP target deficit this year from \$660 million, due to improved export earnings.

But next year, Guinigundo said there should be a turnaround in the BOP performance, due to higher exports and remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

"It's still possible that the BOP will improve later this year, but the big improvement is expected next year," he said.

The BSP expects to chalk up a BOP surplus of \$500 million next year.

## DBM also to blame for NFA woes

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE EMPLOYEES union of the National Food Authority yesterday said the Department of Budget and Management was partly to blame for the agency's financial losses.

According to NFA Employees Union president Roman Sanchez, the DBM's delayed remittance of the P900-million government subsidy for the buying of palay (unmilled rice) from farmers forced the NFA to turn to commercial banks that charged higher interest rates.

Another factor that led to NFA's financial woes was the 50 percent duty on rice imports.

Since the NFA was created 32 years ago, it was only in 2002 that it was required to pay import duties.

"As a government-owned corporation we have been exempted from paying taxes for the last three decades. Now we have to pay for tariffs ... This year, we imported close to 900,000 metric tons of rice," added Sanchez.

Sanchez urged the DBM to look into the higher wages and streamline the top heavy bureaucracy, instead of always hating on the rank-and-file employees, who comprise the backbone of the agency.

"The NFA needs a clearer and more definite mandate that would guide us in streamlining our operations," said NFA Deputy Administrator and officer-in-charge Gregorio Tan in a separate interview.

Created through Presidential Decree No. 4, the state-owned trading NFA is in charge of importing rice to cover the shortfall in domestic production.

"The NFA is not really designed to make money for the national government. We buy palay (unmilled rice) from the farmers at a higher, subsidized price and at the same time sell them at a lower cost to consumers," explained Tan.

## Deregulation policy stays, CICT head says

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE ARROYO administration yesterday said it would continue to pursue the deregulation of the telecommunications sector despite recent calls from a prominent telecom executive to consider going back to regulation.

"We would continue to open up the telecom sector to competition," said Virgilio Peña, chair of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology or CICT.

The CICT is tasked to develop the country's information technology sector.

The National Telecommunications Commission and the Philippine Postal Corp. were transferred from the Department of Transportation and Communication to the CICT.

Manuel Pangilinan, chair of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., earlier urged the government to reconsider its liberalization policy in favor of a regulated and managed yet efficient economy like Hong Kong and Singapore.

Pangilinan said the deregulation of the telecom industry in the early '90s through a policy called the service area scheme was a failure, in the sense that only giants like PLDT and Globe Telecom Inc. of Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom survived it.

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## LIFE STYLE

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## It's Greek chic for Michael Kors

**N**EW YORK When most fashion designers talk about Greek goddesses, they mean the ancient kind who wore draped column gowns and braided belts. Not

Michael Kors. The "Greek chic" collection Kors previewed at New York Fashion Week was for a modern goddess, one of the slim, tanned variety who enjoys spending her days on the beaches of the island of Santorini and late nights in Mykonos.

WHITE cotton lace  
santorini  
dress REUTHS



Kors turned his runway into a playground for the jet-setter who might need a tiger-print georgette short-calf tan with turquoise trim to wear over her tiger bikini.

For lunch at a seaside café, she could choose from an ocean-blue silk georgette batik peasant blouse with linen pants embroidered at the ankle, or an off-the-shoulder peasant dress with tiers of ruffles from the waist down.

And this woman needs evening clothes, too: a white hand-embroidered dance dress with embedded crystals or a white chiffon jersey gown with colored crystals covering

IT'S GREEK/C2

AN ECRU cotton hand knit cardigan and ecru guipure strapless dress at the showing of the Michael Kors spring 2005 line in NY

## Staying the Kors

By Kitty Go  
Contributor

**T**HIS season heralds the Michael Kors collection at Joyce in Hong Kong. The Fall/Winter 2004 collection, inspired by the look of '60s and '70s photos by celebrity paparazzo Ron Galella, epitomizes "luxurious boho-style."

Galella was probably the first photographer who became as famous as the

STAYING/C2



KORS walks the runway after his Olympus Fashion Week show in NYC.

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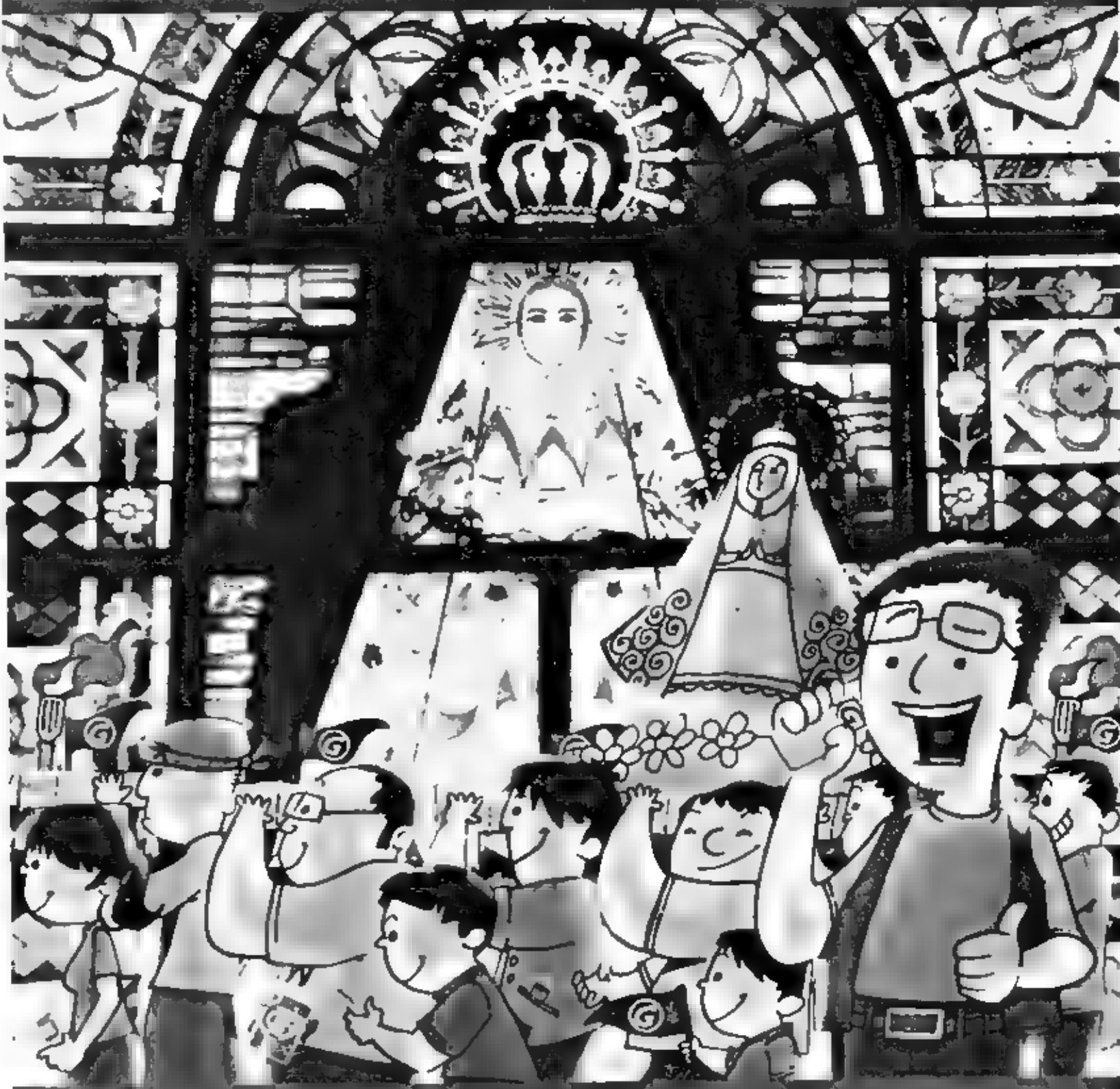
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TIGER silk georgette halter dress AP



TIGER Duchesse Reefer



TIGER ring mailot



AQUA floral hand embroidered linen djellaba (top left) REUTERS

## It's Greek Chic for Michael Kors

From page C1

the bikini-style top and waistband, perhaps? Kors described the collection as "sportswear with a romantic sense of glamour... delicate embroideries and lavish embellishments with a relaxed attitude."

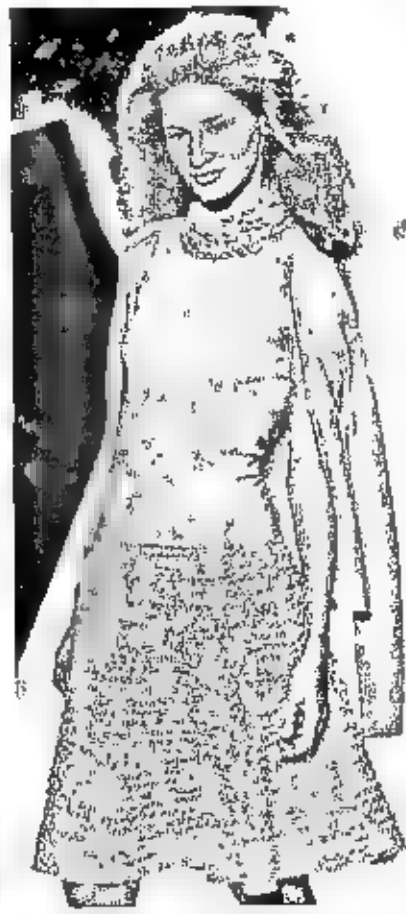
An extremely glamorous actress—Elizabeth Taylor—was his muse for spring. There even was a "Liz" dress, a white jersey sport dress with a string of crystals and turquoise around the empire waist. "Michael Kors' collection was brash... bold, and as a designer, he puts out (on the runway) what he believes in without any restraint, from sexy and beaded to exotic and animal prints to colorful and classic... And he thinks about it from head to toe," said Tom Julian, a trend analyst for ad agency Fashion Worldwide and commentator for the fashion Website Mann Floor. AP



COBALT hand painted python jacket and matching bikini with white cotton jeans AP



BLACK piped cotton jacket with a black and white grosgrain skirt REUTERS



AQUA cashmere cardigan with aqua cashmere pullover and aqua organza ruffled skirt



A WHITE chiffon jersey crystal encrusted goddess gown AP

## Staying the Kors

From page C1

celebrities he photographed. He was also known to stalk them such as what he did with Jackie O, and ended up being slapped with a restraining order. He was no ordinary paparazzo but the one who captured celebrities at their most glamorous in action. Kors brings that same jet-setting glamour and fluid pace to this fall's collection.

According to Adrienne Ma, managing director of Joyce, most of the specialty retailer's American designers such as Marc Jacobs, Anna Sui, Diane von Furstenberg and Rick Owens are contemporary casual while Michael Kors

and this fall's re-launch of the Donna Karan Collection establishes an up-market niche for American designers at Joyce.

Since his first line launched in 1981 at Saks Fifth Avenue and Bergdorf Goodman in New York, Kors has never veered from his marketing position of chic, luxurious American sportswear. His brand of fashion made it to the silver screen, worn by Renee Russo, for the remake of "The Thomas Crown Affair."

This fall's relaxed but polished look is dominated by soft suedes and fringes, multi-ply cashmeres and fur pieces (the shrug is very big) worn with sheer dresses in muted paisley

prints and tight jeans and corduroys in denim, black, tobacco and chocolate brown.

Short skirts and boots, sheer dresses, tiny jackets, matte jersey and silky gowns with fur boar reminiscent of Jean Harlow, give the impression that the Michael Kors woman is no ordinary jet setter but one who has a private plane and takes limos, one who never has to feel the chill of winter or get her boots wet in the snow. The small bags and stricken furs only further the message that this is one chick who doesn't need a coat because there's a car or a plane waiting and doesn't carry luggage because there's a home waiting on either end of the journey.



ACRYLIC nylon wool/lycra and mohaire nylon long-sleeved cowl-neck sweater and solid stretch, faux suede long-sleeved jacket



PRINTED georgette long-sleeved classic-fit blouse and novelty tweed long-sleeved jacket



LONG-SLEEVED V-neck sweater with scarf and novelty tweed long-sleeved jacket

## Vintage luxury

Liz Claiborne's contribution to Fall fashion this year are tweed jackets, fur accents, knee-length skirts and sweater jackets—vintage and luxury in one glamorous mix.

The accent is on old school, with vintage suits, jackets, shoes and accents tailored to a new point of view. The fabrics and textures—tweeds, sueded and knits, silks and antique florals—add sensuous touches in shades of deep green, brown and wine set off by elegant cream and white. Faux fur—leopard, fox and sable find their way to collars and accessories.

Liz Claiborne's recommendations this season include sweater jackets or cardigans in different yarns, textures and silhouettes, all hand-knit, in tweed bouclé and herringbone.

Inside, you can have any of a variety of vintage shirts in striped jacquard, floral sateen dobby or pointed striped dobby. Round it off with around-the-knee-length skirts and slim-leg pants for that smart, cosmopolitan look.

Liz Claiborne is available in Missy, Petite and Woman on the 2/L Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, and 3/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

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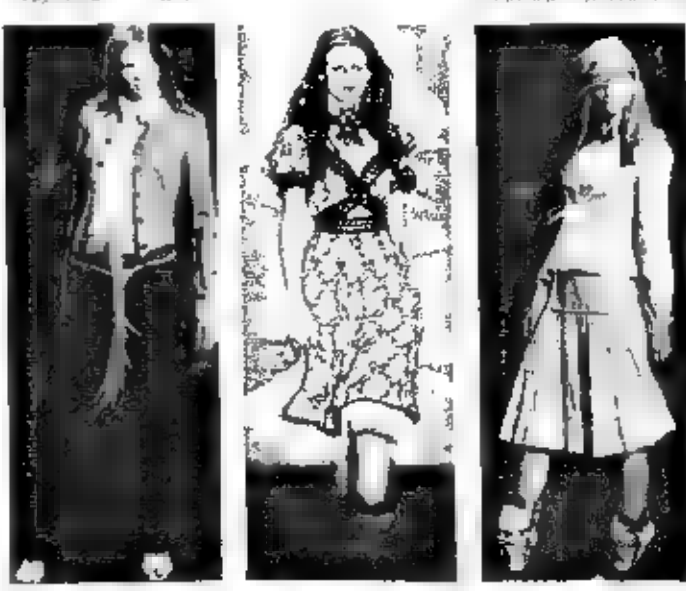


# Women designing for women in New York Fashion Week



NAOMI Campbell models a silver leather fringe dress with rhinestones. REUTERS

**Anna Sui**  
 Anna Sui put on a Wild West show that blended her "Rhinestone Cowgirl" outfits with American Indian touches. Naomi Campbell in a silver leather Pocahontas dress, which closed the show, drew applause.  
 The white jackets covered with colored rhinestones and red-rose appliques and matching white fringe skirts likely won't coordinate well with what most women have in their closets, but several outfits, including a butter-colored chamois ruffled jacket with a white eyelet tiered skirt and an orange plaid taffeta bustier with a coordinating prairie skirt, were wearable—and downright cute. AP



(FROM LEFT) Khaki denim soldier jacket with blue jeans; cream floral medallion dress with white eyelet petticoat; pink sprigs sateen jacket with tweed petticoat. PHOTOS: REUTER



WHITE rhinestone cowboy jersey jacket with blue trim and a matching skirt are modeled with a woven stripe gauze blouse. AFP



## Who was at the NY Fashion Week



WINONA Ryder at the Marc Jacobs show



NATALIE Portman and Mandy Moore at the Marc Jacobs show



MARY-KATE and Ashley Olsen at the Marc Jacobs show



TENNIS player Serena Williams and actresses Hilary Swank and Elizabeth Harnett attend the Calvin Klein show.

# Donna Karan

A fuchsia lacquered paper leather parachute jacket, worn with a fuchsia boned net bustier and stretch silk jersey loop skirt, along with the occasional bright cobalt or indigo outfit, broke up the parade of mostly steel-colored looks at Karan's show.

Many of Karan's dresses were adorned with lace-up backs, steel metallic sequins, mesh and netting. A group of gowns made of cotton stretch sweat shirt jersey featured an abstract metallic embroidery with a space-age feel.

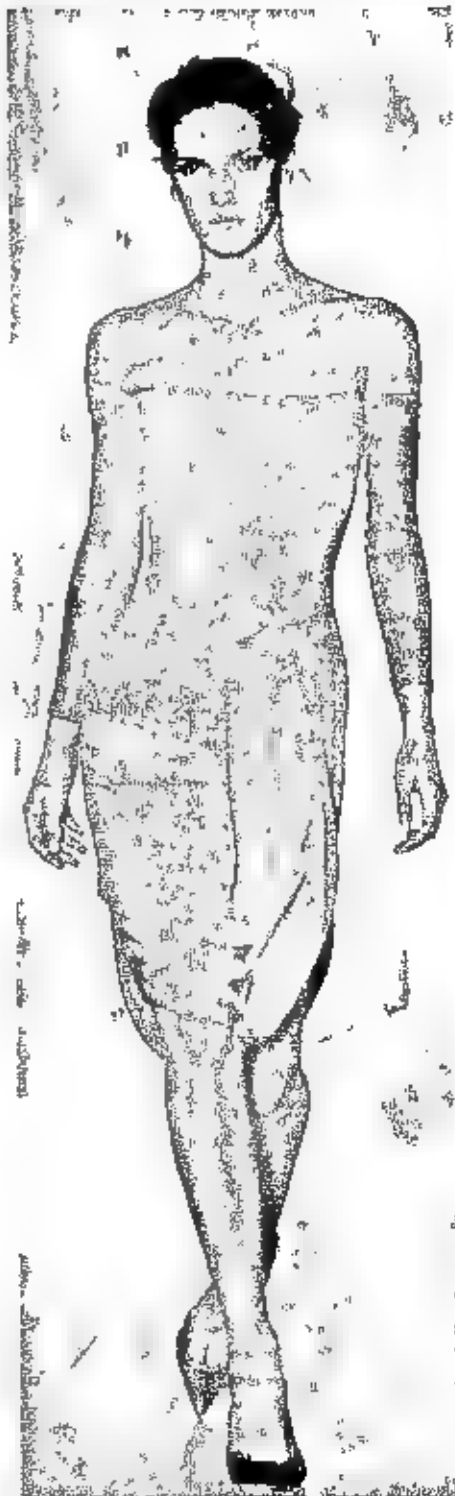
"I thought it was interesting, there were a lot of elements on every garment," said Sally Singer, Vogue's fashion news and features editor. "Every outfit had a different back and front, which is not typical of an American catwalk."

AP



(FROM LEFT) Mohair laced-back molded jacket and a mohair turbine pleated skirt; cotton boned bodiced shirt with a cotton balloon skirt; stretch chiffon jersey and net boned bodice dress

PHOTOS: REUTERS



FUCHSIA stretch chiffon jersey and net off-the-shoulder boned bodice dress

AP



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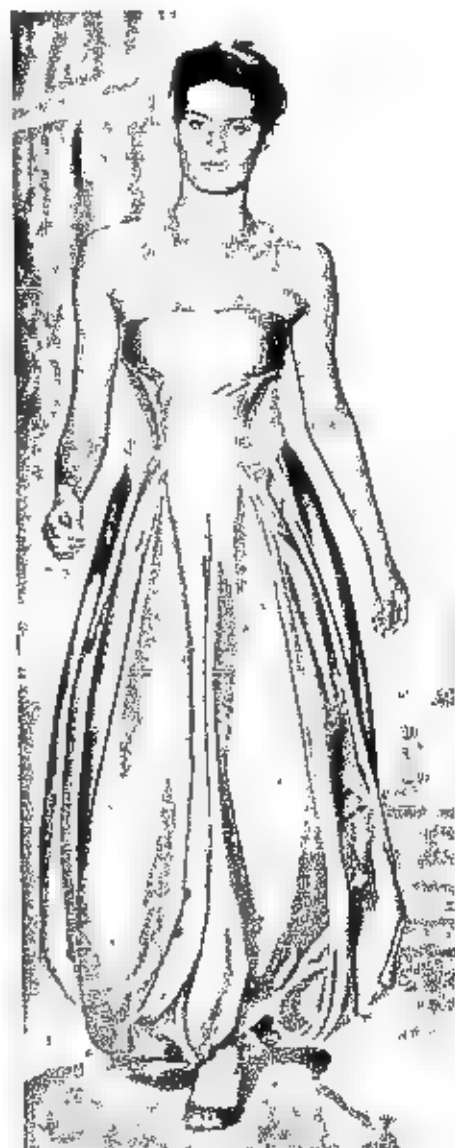
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STRETCH silk dupioni laced-back evening dress

REUTERS

## ion Week?



MILLA Jovovich, Marissa Berenson and Bernardette Peters at the Donna Karan show



JACK Nicholson and designer Jennifer Nicholson attend her Spring 2005 show.



KATE Hudson and Liv Tyler at the Marc Jacobs show



JENNIFER Lopez at the Marc Jacobs show



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BY RM. JUNIOR

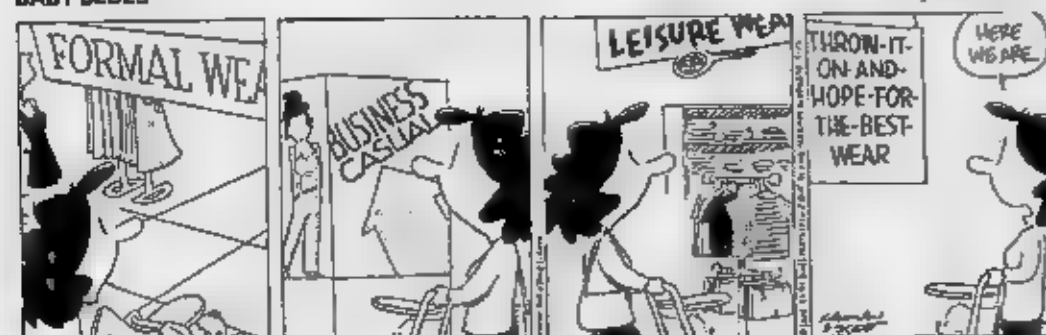


BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



## HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You're fearless, persistent and determined. Once you have established your objective, you will doggedly pursue it. You're organized, tough and committed. You have a dry sense of humor, and you enjoy adventure. Most of all, you value tradition. The year ahead holds major changes for you, as eventful as in 1995-96.

**Birthdate of:** Ken Kesey, writer; Hank Williams, singer; Anne Bancroft, actress

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** You might develop a serious crush on someone. It's easy to fall in love right now. However, this is a kind of Hollywood love based on dreams and illusions.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** You feel very warm toward everyone today and tomorrow. Nevertheless, you could be kidding yourself about something. Maybe you can't see the forest because of the trees.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** Be careful of partnerships and close friendships now. Your unrealistic ideals could cause you to be disappointed. Don't put someone on a pedestal.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** Be careful when shopping for home, family and real estate today. You could go overboard buying something indulgent or artistic. You're feeling a little rash right now.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** Take caution against extravagant spending today! You feel unusually indulgent with yourself and loved ones. Similarly, be careful about financial deals.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** Double-check all promises made to you by co-workers today. Although people are well-meaning, they might not have all the facts. (In fact, they could be out to lunch!)

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** New friendships could appear to be other than what they really are. It's very easy to fool yourself today. Wishful thinking doesn't necessarily make it so!

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** You might be very attracted to your boss or someone in a position of authority today. This person seems to be gorgeous, charming and seductive. But, is he or she really?

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** Matters connected with travel, publishing, education, medicine and the law need to be questioned. Things could appear to be more ideal than they really are. Be careful what you count on!

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** Don't give away the farm today. You could go overboard sharing something with others. (You could also go overboard going into debt. Be careful!)

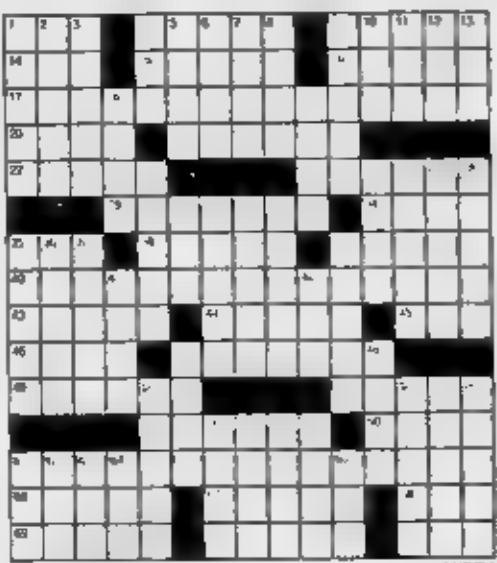
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** Friends could become lovers today. Just enjoy whatever beautiful, romantic experience comes your way. But don't put too many demands or expectations on whatever happens.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** In large measure, your disappointment with a co-worker could be because of unrealistic expectations. Think about this. We all put our parts on one leg at a time. Don't be betrayed by your sense of idealism.

## DAILY CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 1 Courtrooms
- 4 Medley route
- 9 Geiz and Kanton
- 14 Pub preference
- 15 Embroidery loop
- 18 Former capital of Scotland
- 17 Stent of a quip
- 20 Had the answer
- 21 Metal member
- 22 Rainwater conduit
- 24 Thingamajig
- 29 Passes gossip
- 34 Hidden explosive
- 35 Pionic visitor
- 36 Handless day
- 39 Distilled mesh
- 40 More of quip
- 43 Egghead
- 44 Boredom
- 45 Preferred one
- 46 Baseball "tough" stn.
- 47 Kindergarten colors
- 49 Replace a stopper
- 51 Felines
- 55 Eyed lecherously
- 60 Flynn Boyle of "The Practice"
- 61 End of quip
- 66 TV studio sign
- 67 Perceptive
- 68 NASA outpost
- 69 Singer Eydie
- 70 Was clothed
- 71 Greek letter



By Roger Corbin  
Sunderland, GA

9/17/04

### Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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### DOWN

- 1 Pitcher's miscues
- 2 Without help
- 3 Stitch anew
- 4 Health haven
- 5 Metal containers
- 6 Back talk?
- 7 Something to gather?
- 8 Fraying upright
- 9 Nixon's Agnew

### ACROSS

- 11 Buchwald or Garfunkel
- 12 Ultimate degree
- 13 Female
- 18 Bedstead
- 19 Beatty Min.
- 23 Spruce juice
- 25 "Type" saguaro
- 26 Buttoned
- 27 Leg joint
- 28 Distributed hands
- 30 Soak up rays
- 31 Lawn tool
- 32 Jungle vine
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- 35 Dark yellow
- 36 Old
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- 38 Unks obstacles
- 39 Contending
- 41 Square of three
- 42 Pair
- 47 Singer Laine
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- 50 Actress
- 51 Woodard
- 52 Flock bottom
- 53 Take-out item?
- 54 Go-ahead
- 55 Historic time periods
- 57 Rolling in dough
- 58 Ornamental case
- 59 Assignment
- 61 Cabin component
- 62 Lemons Yoko
- 63 Rover's tail
- 64 Kipking back
- 65 Held first place

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBING



# Robinsons Supermarket

# big R Supercenter

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 <b>P280.00</b> MONTEREY Beef Sirloin	 <b>P170.00</b> MONTEREY Pork Salsuyu Cut	 <b>P160.00</b> MONTEREY Pork Chops Barbeque	 <b>P139.00</b> SWIFT Mighty Meaty Hotdog (Regular) 1kg	
 <b>P102.00</b> SWIFT Sweet 'n' Juicy Hotdog (Regular) 1kg	 <b>P170.00</b> EL FAVORITO Double Dutch 1/2 Gal. (Not available in Tubbataha, Malabon, and San Juan)	 <b>P25.95</b> EDEN Filled Cheese 200g	 <b>P40.85</b> GARDENIA 5 Grain Loaf 400g	

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Not available in Pampanga

**P99.75** LADIES PUMA SPORTS SOCKS

**P119.75** MENS PUMA SPORTS SOCKS

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**P249.75** SKATERS ATHLETIC SHOES  
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**P225.00** BODY MUSIC LADIES' TANK TOP

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**P149.75** Before: P199.75  
WHITE VACUUM PILLOW

**P149.75** Before: P199.75  
WHITE VACUUM PILLOW

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- Tuburan Center
- Metropolis Star Alabang
- Target Mall, Sta. Rosa Laguna
- Circle C Center, Congressional

- Malaban Citysquare
- Napo Mall, Angeles, Pampanga
- Araneta Square, Caloocan City
- Eastwood City, Libis

big R Supercenter

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PH 02: NCR PERMIT 23635 SERIES OF 2004



## LIFESTYLE

## Everyday fashion must-haves



**YELLOW** gate and joints from Portland



**BLACK** long-sleeved shirt and jeans from Portside

ROBINSONS Department Store recommends five closet "must-haves" from its RDS Private Label:

• **The dependable denims.** A few dates, outings with friends and four years of college... You and your favorite pair of jeans have gone through so much together. Don't you think it's about time to get some more of them? Wear them with plain bright-colored blouse or under a pastel-colored polo and you're ready to go anywhere.

• **Way-out white.** Whether you're on your way to a badminton match or off to school for a long exam, white outfits always make you look chic and impeccable.

- **Nice neutrals.** If one of your on-the-job dilemmas is being caught between being

overdressed and being dull, try wearing neutrals to the workplace. With a classic carry-all bag and heeled pumps to complete the look, you're on your way to impress.

- **Cool khakis.** Like your loyal denim, khaki pants, when paired with a turtleneck or long-sleeved shirt, make for dependable lifesavers.

• **Super stripes and sweatshirts.** For everyday activities like a group study or a drive around town, nothing beats round-neck sweatshirts or bright classic shirts.

RDS Private Labels offer affordable selections like tops, jeans and polos to shoes, skirts, blazers and bags. Check out Julia for ladies' wear; bags and shoes; Portside for men's wear; Liberte for teenage girls' wear; and Portloose for slippers and sandals.



**NEP: Science and Social Science Library**



**ON HER:** Striped tee, three-quarter sleeved shirt and mini skirt, all from L'Orléans. On him: white long-sleeved shirt, round-neck tee and jeans, all from Parolite.



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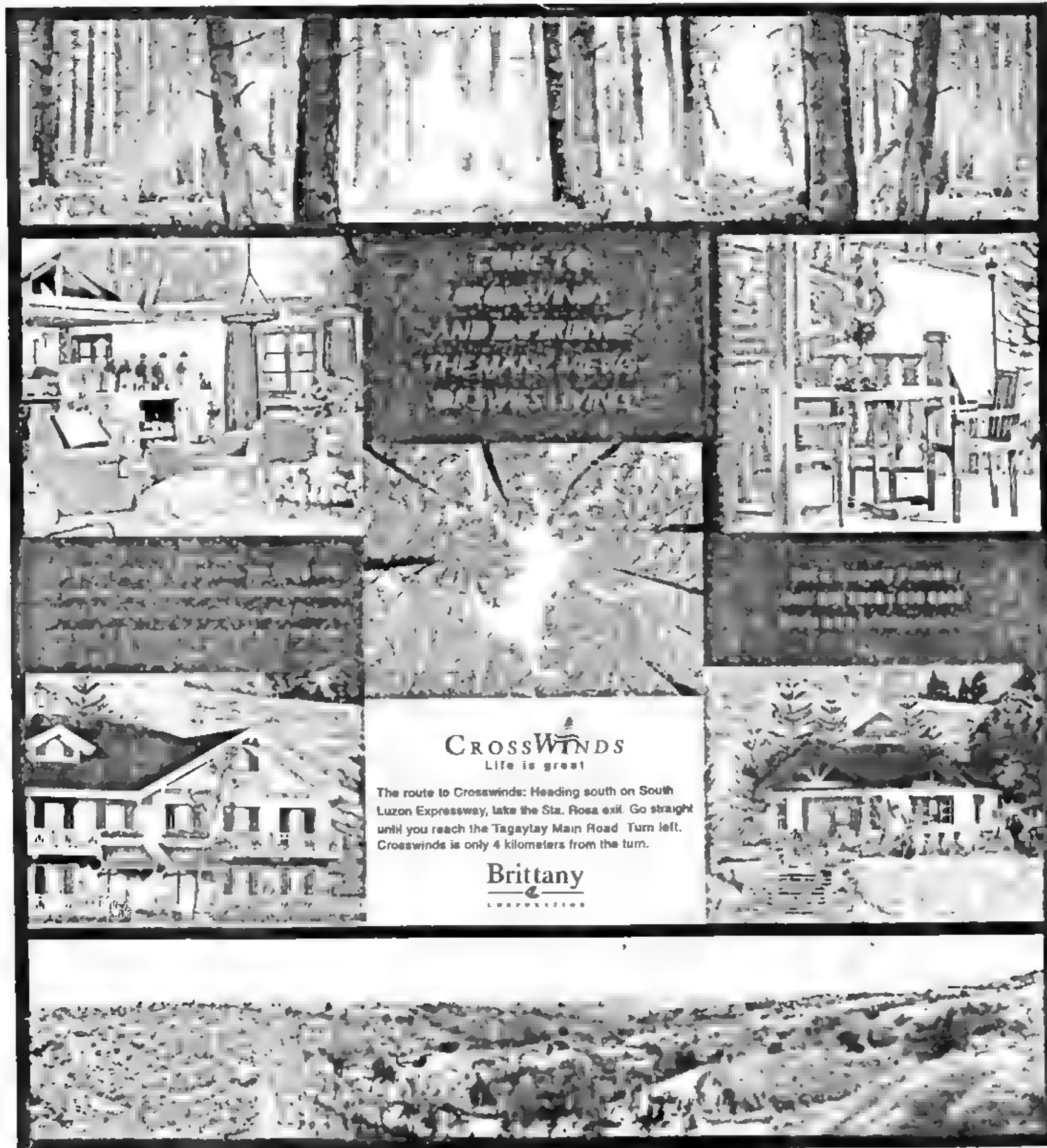
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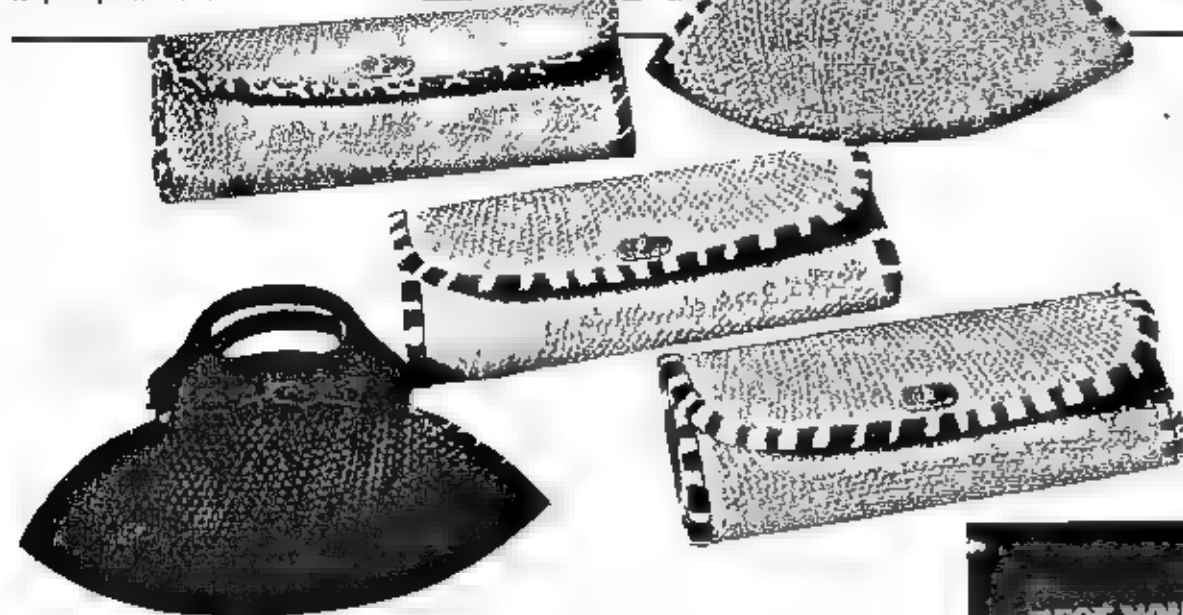
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From September 1 to 30, 2004



**INTO THE WILD.** Bright straw clutches and handbags trimmed with zebra- and leopard-print fabrics

# LIFE STYLE



## Aranaz doesn't live here anymore

Text by Cheche V. Moral  
Photos by Chito Vecina

**T**HE MAN of the house had had it up to here, and he was putting his foot down: The Aranaz home could no longer be a place for business.

Those of you who relentlessly made house calls on bag exporter Rebecca "Becky" Aranaz for her gorgeous clutches and purses have only yourselves to blame. But if you ask Becky and daughter Amina, it was the "eviction" that finally forced them to set up shop.

Mom and daughter have long wanted to have an accessories boutique exclusive to the local market, following the warm response to their products at bazaars, but they never gave it serious thought until Becky's husband, Jose, began complaining.

"My husband would often bump into strangers in the lanai," Becky said in July, when she first told us about the store. Those "strangers" were buyers who usually came to reorder pieces from a previous bazaar. "He would say, 'Ano ba yan, Becky, I can't even walk around the house anymore without running into your buyers,'" she recalled with a laugh.

Last week, Aranaz Manila opened its doors on the second level of City Golf Plaza in Pasig City. Since the signage had not been delivered yet, only a tiny display window eluded in shoppers to the treats behind the bright pink door.

Becky had delayed the store's opening to wait for Amina's arrival from London, where she had finished a course in fashion styling at Central Saint Martins. Mom and daughter corresponded regularly to discuss product design. "Until now we're still edging," Amina said of the store's debut collection.

### International styles

Also a graduate of accessories design at the Istituto Marangoni in Milan, Amina is bringing fresh ideas into Aranaz bags. Becky has been an exporter for 25 years, having supplied such brands as Rafe, Nine West, Adienne Vittadini, Esprit, Franchi, Cynthia Rowley, among many others. (Incidentally, Amina was recently picked as local representative of the Italian fashion school's soon-to-open Philippine office.)

Aranaz Manila's

styles for the local market are decidedly more "international." As export designs are dictated by their clients—"more basic and conservative"—the Aranazes are quite pleased they now have a venue to explore new design avenues.

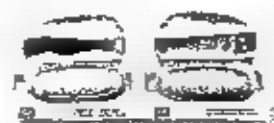
"Mom does business 'by feel,'" Amina said. "That's how she's always been. But when I tell her what I learned in school, she's very open to ideas. She says, 'Just tell me what you want to do and we'll do it.'"

This early, Amina's already making plans to design shoes for the store "because that's what I studied [in Milan]." She's also considering accepting made-to-order purses for special occasions.

The small shop belies the motley of eye candies within that are sure to send bag-philes into delirious overdrive. Just imagine, a year-round "bazaar" of Aranaz!

Unlike their export wares made mostly of native materials, Becky and Amina offer jew-

ARANAZ/D2



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PAIN RELIEVER AND SLEEP AID

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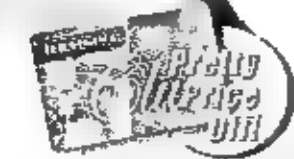
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- SM City Baguio
- Abnaco Square Baguio
- Ayala Center Cebu
- Gaisano Mall Davao



Be an Instant Freshaire Club Member when you avail of the Hair Straight Promot

For DTH-MCR Permit No. 1599, Saling of 2004

Happily, the bag supplier to such big labels as Esprit, Nine West and Cynthia Rowley now has a real shop, having been 'evicted' by the man of the house



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For CTR-PCR Permit No. 0223 Series of 2004

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**"FUR-FLY" REIGN.** Semiprecious-stone evening bag trimmed with purple feathers, semiprecious stones-and-wood handbag with purple leather handle, and mother-of-pearl wristlet



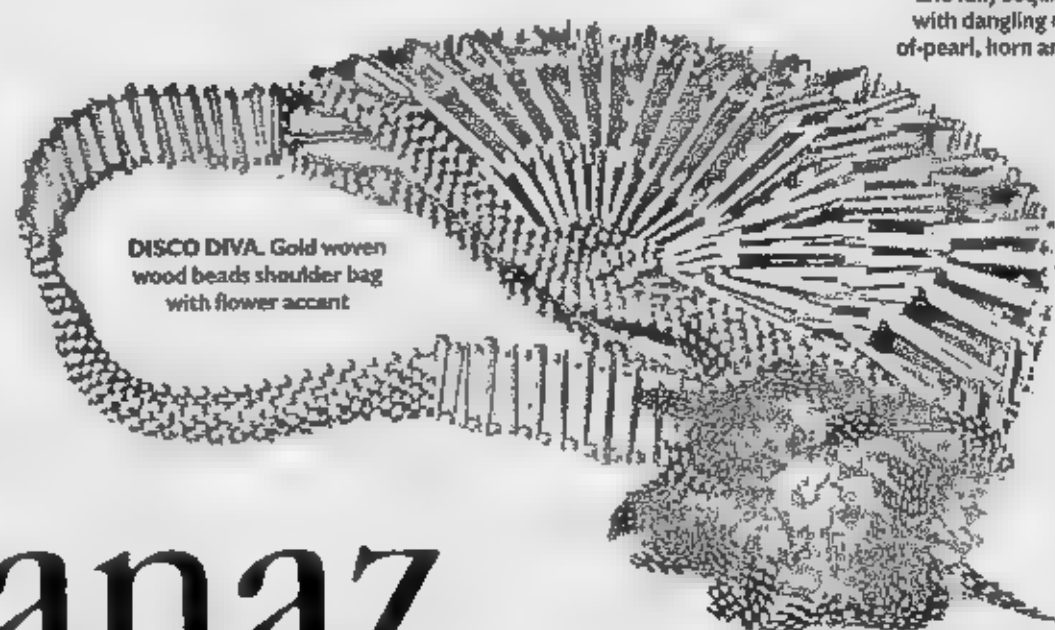
**MOON SHINE.** Fully beaded and sequined half-moon clutch with tassel, and semiprecious stone-beaded handbag with wooden handle



**LET IT DANGLE.** Woven purple semiprecious stones purse with etched metal trim, semiprecious stones-and-wood handbag with bamboo handle, and fully sequined bag with dangling mother-of-pearl, horn and wood beads

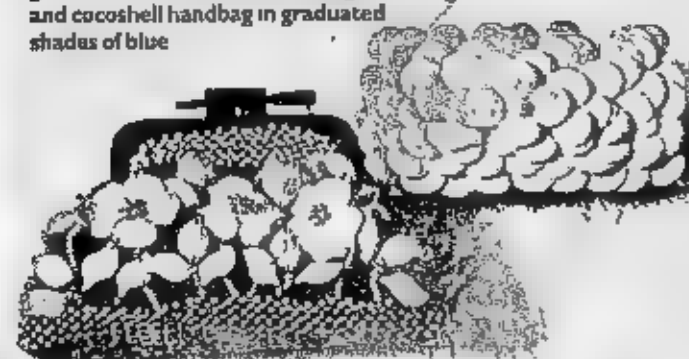


**BAG IT!** Vintage T-shirts transformed into convenient foldable shopper bags



**DISCO DIVA.** Gold woven wood beads shoulder bag with flower accent

**COCO LOCO.** Clutch made of woven gold wood beads with floral design, and cocoshell handbag in graduated shades of blue

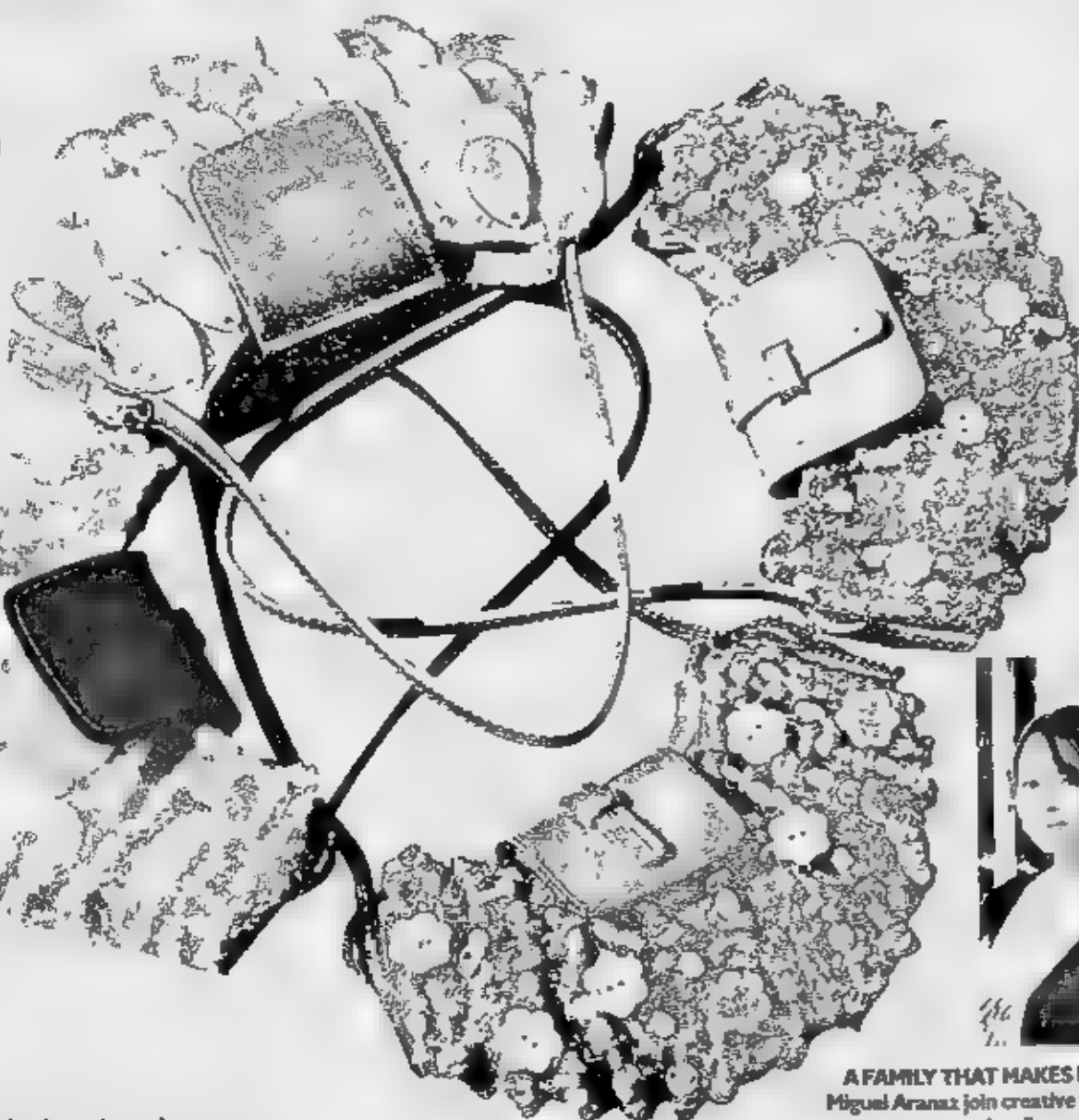


# Aranaz doesn't live here anymore



**TOW CHARM.** Suede-and-leather tote with whimsical charms

**MY PRECIOUS!** Leather-trimmed semiprecious stone-and-multicolored mother-of-pearl handbags



**JUICED.** Orange-leather-trimmed pandan clutch, cocoshell flower wristlet, and leather-trimmed woven wood beads handbag with bamboo handle



From page D1

eled evening purses with semiprecious stones and mother of pearl. For the holidays, they have metallic, pearlized, sequined and other embellished pieces. "It's 'more is more' for the holidays," Amina said.

But what's an Aranaz sans native materials? So there are trendy animal-print, fabric-accented pandan and raffia items, and brightly colored coco-shell

purses. They also have suede and embossed leather-accented totes. Items are priced from P500 to P5,000.

"We want to keep them special so we're limiting most of our designs to only six pieces," Amina said. They plan to introduce 10 new styles each month.

Highly creative, the Aranaz family members put their individual imprints on the new shop.

Eldest child Miguel, who was off to London to take up his master's in graphic design, was responsible for the chic interiors of the shop. It was he who first sold Aranaz locally—from the trunk of his car—to his classmates in Ateneo.

The youngest, Rosanna, also embellished some vintage tees turned into foldable shopper bags. The young woman will soon introduce her own line of belts and other accessories.

As for the patriarch, well, he's happy and supportive so long as they give him peace in his lanang.

Aranaz Manila is located on the 2/L City Golf Plaza, Julia Vargas Avenue, Pasig City (near Valle Verde 4) Call 0917-5293828.

**A FAMILY THAT MAKES BAGS TOGETHER...** Siblings Amina and Miguel Aranaz join creative forces with their mom Becky (center) to set up the all-year, every-year "bazaar" for Aranaz-philies.



**ALL BAG ADDICTS WELCOME**  
The quaint little bag bazaar is called Aranaz Manila.



### MOM AND ME PHOTO CONTEST

Cast your votes for your favorite photo in Robinsons Supermarket and Big R Supercenter's Mom and Me photo contest. The competing photos are now on display at all Robinsons branches. Voting is ongoing until Sept. 24. To join, buy a minimum of P300 single receipt of any children's products, which is equivalent to one vote and which will also serve as one raffle entry.

## Fashion design tilt finals set

THE FINALS of the Philippine Fashion Design Competition (PFDC) 2004 will be held 6 p.m., Oct. 7 at Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Center, Makati City. A fashion show will feature the designs of the 25 semifinalists in the contest organized by the Fashion & Design Council of the Philippines (FDCP), Saga Events + Models and Ayala Center. Robby Carmona will direct the show.

The top five in the competition will represent the country in the Concours International des Jeunes Createurs de Mode (International Competition of Young Fashion Designers) to be held Dec. 16 in Paris, France.

The grand prize winner will receive a free round-trip ticket to Paris for the competition.

Theme of the Paris competition is "Ecology and Environment." As participating countries can have their own adaptations, the FDCP chose "Rebirth and Renewal: The Philippine Butterfly" to promote the butterfly sleeves of the terno.

The production meeting at the Oakwood Suites was attended by the FDCP officers: Randy E. Ortiz, president; Vittorio M. Barba, vice president; and Patrice Ramos-Diaz, treasurer; Ayala Land Inc. Commercial Centers Group management team: Rowena Tomeldan, vice president; Cesar Jose "CJ" C. Jesena, senior division manager; Cathy Bengzon, advertising and promotions manager; and Myrna C. Fernandez, center manager; Greenbelt; and Carmona, managing director; Saga Events + Models.

The screening committee consisted of Ortiz, Barba, Ramos-Diaz, Rajo Laurel, Dennis Lustico, Len Nepomuceno-Guia, Dong Omega Diaz and Frederick Peralta.

The 25 semifinalists are Francis Abao (Cebu), Jerome Ang (Manila), Jay Abalos (Quezon City), Dodie Batu (Davao), John Paul Cabilon (Cebu), Chris Diaz (Parañaque City), Eml Englis (Davao), Jun Escario (Cebu), Joel Escobar (Las Piñas), Patricia Eustaquio (Manila), Allan Fonte (Cebu), Alejandro Godinez Jr. (Cebu), John Herrera (Marikina), Brian Leyva (Antipolo), Roando Locho (Makati), Ignacio Loyola (Cavite), Bo Parcon (Iloilo), Don Protasio (Iloilo), Puey Quinones (Makati), John Paul Range (Quezon City), Garimon Roferos (Davao), Cary Santiago (Cebu), Randall Solomon (Makati), Edwin Tan (Mandaluyong) and Ricardo Vicencio (Mabon).

Each semifinalist was paired with past finalists and winners of local and international competitions as part of FDCP's Mentoring Program that aims to provide guidance to young designers.

Grand prize winner in the international competition will receive a one-year scholarship to the Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture, among others. The international jury will also give an Incentive Award of 450 euros to a designer from each participating country (except the country that wins the grand prize).

Special prize winners will receive training in the Lesage School of Art Embroidery as well as a sewing and embroidery machine.

Designs by Peralta, Jesus Lloren and Diaz won in previous competitions.

### SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda



### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Doris Nuyda's weekly column "Seeing Green" can now be read every Sunday in the Sunday Lifestyle Section of this paper.

## Art for stronger family

A FAMILY-ORIENTED art show that aims to strengthen the Filipino family is being held by the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals until Sept. 19 at SVD mission office, Christ the King Seminary, 101 E. Rodriguez, QC. The exhibit-sala features the works of National Artist Arturo Luz, Tam Austria, Oscar Zalameda, Rafael Cust, Manny Baldeon, Angelito Antonio, Norma Belleza, Loreto Racaya and Jimmy Kwong.

**GARDEN SHOW.** Flora Quezon is holding its 9th annual garden show until Sept. 20 at 234 Quezon Ave., Lucena City, Quezon. Seminars on various plant topics are given at 2 p.m. daily. Call 0917-5276712.

**EVENT.** Visitors to the Pagayaya na Cagayan Valley Region la Infra-

muros, today until Oct. 3, will be treated to an interactive showcase. The event is in line with Wow Philippines' "Gandang Pilipinas, Galing ng Pilipino" program of the Department of Tourism, which showcases the whole country at Clamshell I, Plaza San Ignacio, Anda corner Sta. Lucia Streets, Intramuros, Manila.

**SALE.** The women's lifestyle exhibition bazaar dubbed "All About Her" will be held Sept. 18-19 at The Forum I of PICC, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Call 8250804/8253482.

**SEMINAR.** Managing a Catering Business seminar-workshop will be held Sept. 29-Oct. 7 (excluding weekends), 12 nn-5 p.m., at Panorama Bar and Restaurant, 2nd level, Eastwood City Walk, Eastwood City, Lilibis, QC. Call 8871787/0916-

8226053.

**EXHIBIT.** A wide variety of design interpretations inspired by popular movie themes will be showcased at the annual exhibit of the Philippine School of Interior Design Advanced Class 2004 dubbed "Popcorn PSID Goes to the Movies." The event will be held Oct. 2-31 at Paseo Center Makati. Call 8191197/8191201.

**YOGA CLASSES.** Pau Dallaghan, founder of Yoga Thailand, will be in Manila on Oct. 4-8 to conduct a series of Mysore self-practice and led classes. Call 8170299.

**EXHIBIT.** The Philippine Exhibition on Eternal Care Industry dubbed "Silent Moments" is scheduled on Oct. 8-9 at The Forum, PICC, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Call 8250804/8253482.



# Canon

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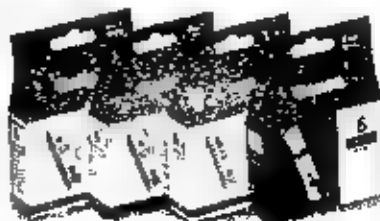
Using refills, fakes and compatibles void your printer's warranty.

Refills refer to the ink used to "refill" Canon cartridges. While ink cartridges that illegally use the Canon brand are called fake. On the other hand, compatibles are other brands of ink cartridges used in a Canon printer. Experts consider all three kinds of ink cartridges hazardous and may be the main cause of breakdown of Canon printers.

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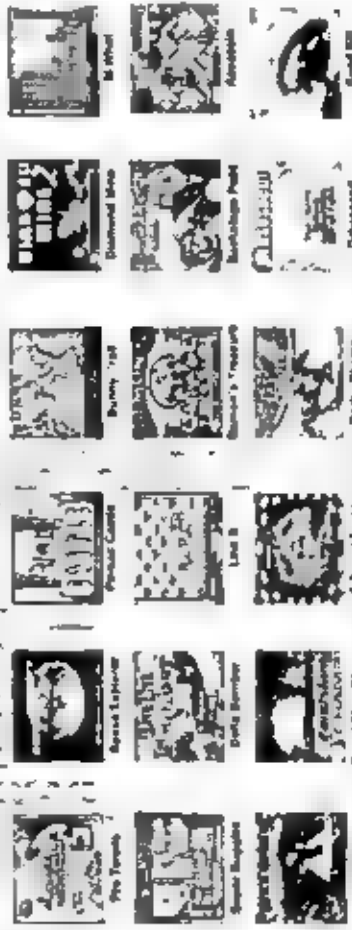
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1. Go to the myGlobe WAP site by pressing "w" for 3 seconds. (Or go to the WAP Services menu of your phone and select "Home".)
2. Click on "Crossfire" under "What's Hot" and download the game.

### CROSSFIRE RATE:

P50 to download with 20 free credits.  
Credits are used to invite partner players and to progress to special missions.  
Text X-FIRE TOPUP -player name- to 2345 for additional 20 credits worth P20.  
P0.15/Kb for GPRS browsing when playing on team mode. You will be notified when GPRS is needed.

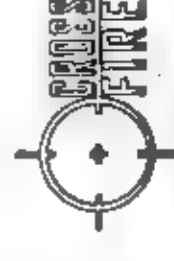
### HOW TO DOWNLOAD OTHER JAVA GAMES:

1. Go to the myGlobe WAP site.
  2. Click on "Globe Handygames" under Multimedia then download the game of your choice.
- Text FUNSTUFF JAVA to 2212 and subscribe to the Handygame of the Week.  
(Compatible phones: Nokia 7250, 7260, 8850, 8810, 8110, 8610, 8820, 6220, 3650, 7650.)

If you have a Nokia 3530, subscribe by texting FUNSTUFF JAVA N3530 to 2212.

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# Globe

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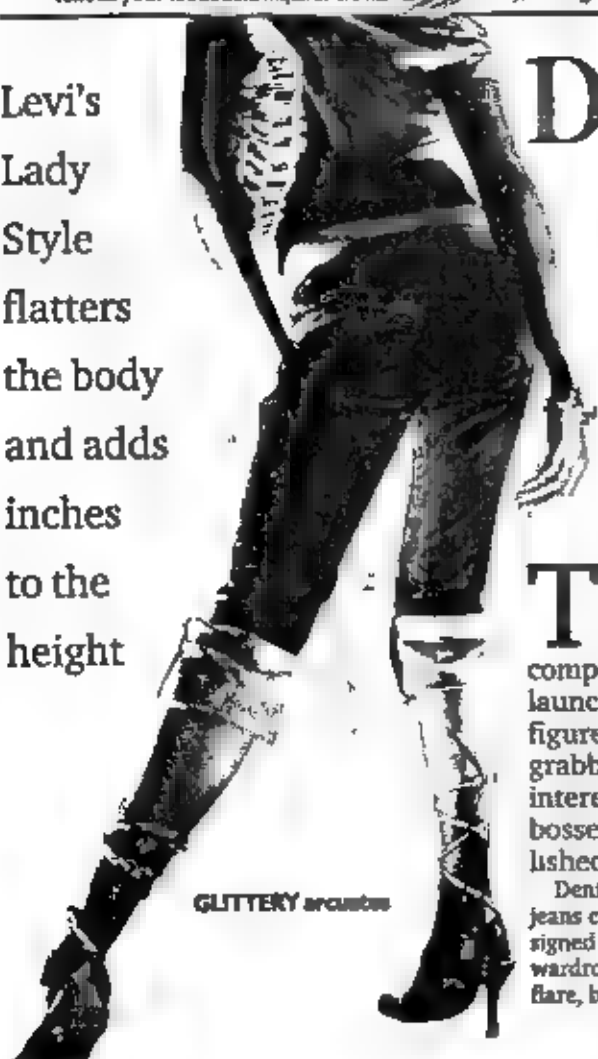
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# LIFESTYLE

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city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 2113 (Smart)

Levi's  
Lady  
Style  
flatters  
the body  
and adds  
inches  
to the  
height



**GLITTERY** *adjective*

# Denims go foxy

**Text by Alex Y. Vergara**  
**Photos by Jon Guino Pascual**

**T**O PROVIDE women with more options and perhaps to keep up with the competition, Levi's has recently launched its Levi's Lady Style of figure-flattering, attention-grabbing tops and jeans with interesting details such as embossed and Swarovski embellished pockets.

Denim and sateen (stretched cotton) jeans come in several fits and colors designed to spice up any woman's evening wardrobe. Whether she goes for slim, flare, boot or shoe cut, every pair is tight

## DISCUSSION



## Burns Fat 43% Faster

**Introducing ThermoGreen Tea Caps from Universal Nutrition, the first clinically-proven, caffeine-free thermogenic fat burner in the world.**



This proprietary extract has been proven to increase thermogenesis by up to 43%. The most amazing thing is that the test subjects increased thermogenesis and fat oxidation without exercise of any kind! Yet research found that the formula found exclusively in ThermoGreen Tea will not increase heart rate. These two facts make ThermoGreen Tea a true breakthrough in fat burning supplements.

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100



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THURSDAY  
8:30 PM  
Fireworks Display**

**SEPT 17**  
**FRIDAY**  
**3:00 PM**  
**Barbie's Cradle**  
**and**  
**Jimmy Bond**

**SEPT 18  
SATURDAY  
4:30 PM  
Regina Velasquez  
and  
Akulolas**

SEPT 10  
SUNDAY  
5:00 PM  
Polo Pascual  
and  
Jay-R





EVERY item is Levi's, except bags and accessories

# Denims go foxy



LAYERING is the name of the game

Every pair of Levi's Lady Style is tight enough to make legs look longer and, well, derrieres more pronounced

From page E1

enough to make legs look longer and, well, derrieres more pronounced—indeed, two “problem” areas most petite Filipinas want to address and enhance.

“This latest innovation came from our Japanese designers,” says Michelle Borromeo, consumer marketing manager of Levi Strauss Philippines. “The pieces were designed primarily with the Asian woman in mind.”

Darts, for instance, give the legs an illusion of length. If that extra “height” isn’t enough to get people’s attention, perhaps the jazzed-up pair of arcuates (Levi’s trademark V-shaped topstitching on the back pockets) will do the trick. This time, they come either with added sparkle—thanks to Swarovski crystals—or extra volume via embossed heart-shaped behind-the-scene details.

“The basic, five-pocket jeans are the ones you wear to work,” Borromeo adds. “These new pieces are decidedly sexier and more glamorous.”

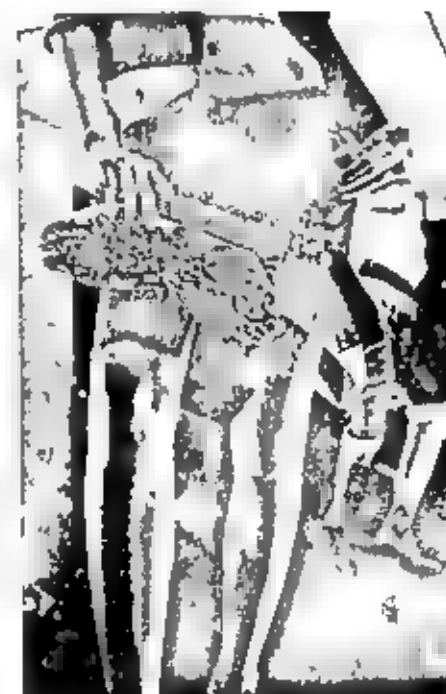
To complete the look, Levi’s also launched several form-fitting denim jackets, retrofitted pencil skirts and body-hugging ruched, asymmetric tank cotton tops with the brand’s signature “two-horses” design. Again, the image on the chest glows with added sparkle for casual but gammed-up gimik nights.

Levi’s recently launched the pieces in a fashion show dubbed “Reveal the Perfect Fit.” Directed by Robby Carmona and styled by Jenn Epperson of INQUIRE’s Just Shop, the show featured models in their Levi’s Lady Style pieces, which were made more eye-catching through layering and such de rigueur accessories as ribbons, zashes and brooches.

The chances of you bumping into someone wearing the same ensemble have been lessened, as the collection is available at certain



BELLYBUTTON girl



BROOCH up



REVEAL those runway legs.

Levi’s outlets for a limited time only.

Among the designated outlets selling the Levi’s Lady Style are Glorietta, Power Plant Mall, Robinsons Manila, SM Megamall, Sta. Lucia East, Market! Market! and Ayala Center Cebu.

Or, you can always hold your breath and step into a pair of extra-high heels and hope that you’d look taller, slimmer and curvier than the next girl.

E-mail the author at [avergara@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:avergara@inquirer.com.ph)



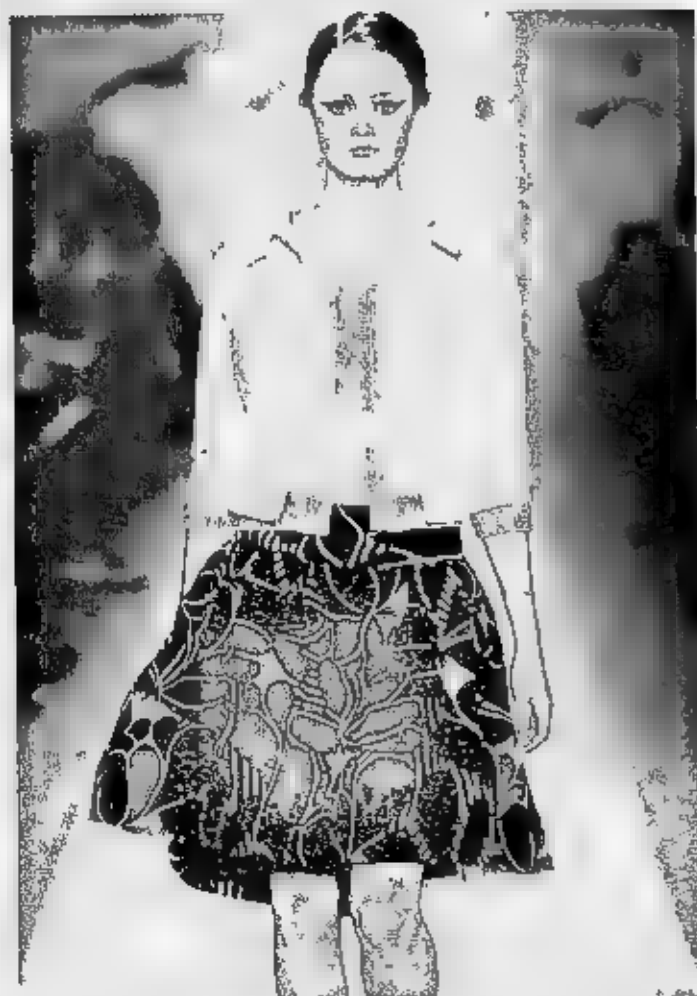
LEVI'S style icons Isabel Roces, Angel Jacob and Wendy Puyat-Hetung



WHITE jeans beyond summer



SHE loves her "long-legged."



## Fashion that's never run of the mill



MILLY, designed by Michelle Smith of New York, is for the girl who likes to look pretty, cheeky, sexy and fun. The collection merges vintage couture fabrics like wool and silk with feminine and modern silhouettes, always with a twist of humor.

Smith's designs are inspired by her roots and experiences: "My Connecticut childhood, my time spent in Paris, soaking up the culture and the nonchalant elegance of the women there and my life as a single working girl in New York, wanting clothes that are sexy and fun but still allow me to be taken seriously."

She seeks to dress up a goal-oriented, fun, postmodern woman.

Michelle Smith parlayed a childhood playing dress-up and sketching princesses in lavish ball gowns into an art school scholarship at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology.

At the age of 18, she landed a part-time job with the luxury brand Hermès. After graduation, she became the first American employee sent to intern in Paris by the legendary luxury goods house. While in Paris, she continued her studies at design school Esmod.

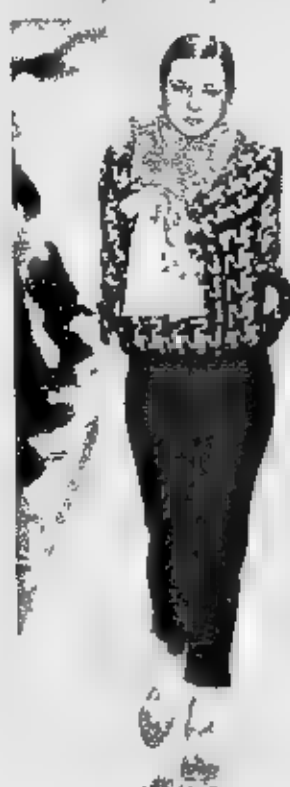
Her drive and talent afforded her breakthrough internships at Louis Vuitton, Torrente and Christian Dior Haute Couture, where she worked in the grand salon on the Avenue Montaigne.

Milly was launched in spring 2001 with Smith's business partners Andrew and Edward Oshinn.

In less than three years, the Milly collection has developed a loyal following with retailers and customers. Her clothes have been seen on Kristin Davis ("Sex and the City"), Jennifer Aniston ("Friends"), Gwyneth Paltrow ("Shallow Hal") and Debra Messing ("Will and Grace"). Milly was also featured in the recent comedy film "Uptown Girl," starring Brittany Murphy.

The Fall 2004 collection features fabulous renditions in wool, flannel, cashmere, silk and chiffon.

In the Philippines, Milly is available at Mix, G/L, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City.



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solo P135  
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## LIFESTYLE



# Picnic in the shade

**S**ALVATORE Ferragamo presents Picnic, its new range of sunglasses. The name brings to mind a vacation in Italy, with carefree luncheons on the grass or by a shady riverbank.

The real novelty in these new sunglasses is the shaft in hand-embroidered polychrome raffia—one of the oldest traditional craft products Tuscany has to offer.

Woven, braided, embroidered, raffia is a shiny fiber obtained from the young leaves of a palm that grows in East Africa. It has been a Ferragamo classic staple material ever since 1927 when Salvatore Ferragamo returned to Italy—after his American triumph—and set-

ted in Florence to create extraordinary shoes using every type of material imaginable.

Ferragamo-made shoes were not merely the result of outstanding artisan work. They were objects of study for their innovations on shapes, materials and colors, fitting perfectly into the context of 20th-century artistic research and not merely the world of fashion.

For the beach or luxurious cruises, the raffia sandals and ballerina shoes became a constant motif in Ferragamo collections, proving that skilful crafting and creativity can turn even the humblest material into a true fashion exclusive.

And it is a historic shoe, a raffia sandal created by Ferragamo in 1938 and now conserved in the Salvatore Ferragamo Museum in Florence, that provided the inspiration for Picnic.

Both the material, and the polychrome cornflowers that decorate the shaft of the sunglasses are based on the

design of that famous sandal, and they are made with the same traditional technique that mechanization simply cannot duplicate.

The sunglasses are made of acetate and come in six colors: black, light horn, white, shocking pink, tortoiseshell and dark purple, and are available with an oval or rectangular front that can be fitted with prescription lenses.

If the sunglasses can be considered little masterpieces, the same can be said of their oval cases. The raffia-look fabric is embroidered with the same cornflower pattern, bringing a breath of freshness and color to luxury eyewear.



shocking pink and white

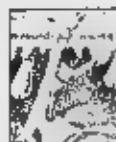
## HOW HAIR GROWS AND WHAT CAUSES HAIR LOSS

### The Hair Growth Cycle

Hair grows in cycle with three phases. In the Anagen phase, the follicle continuously produces hair for more than five years. This is followed by the Catagen phase when the follicle rapidly decreases in size while it shrinks towards the surface and pigment formation stops. This transition phase lasts approximately 2-3 weeks. Then, the hair undergoes the Telogen phase, when the follicle rests from 3 to 4 months. At this phase, no new hair is formed and prepares the follicle for the cycle to begin again.

On a normal scalp, 85% of the hair is growing while 15% are in the resting phase at any given time.

The hair growth cycle is similar to an on-off system. It is the only organ in the human body that can regrow itself and has a resting period where it stops growing for a time.



The "on" phase that can last an average of approximately 1,000 days, but it can reach a span of 3 to 5 years.



### TRANSITIONAL PHASE

This is the regression or the beginning of the "off" phase before the resting state begins where the follicle rapidly decreases in volume while it shrinks towards the surface and pigment formation stops. This transition phase lasts approximately 2-3 weeks.



### RESTING PHASE

The "off" phase which lasts for about 3-4 months. It is in this stage that the hair is shed before the growth phase begins again. Also, this is when the hair follicle retracts and its base moves up towards the surface of the skin.

Each follicle undergoes the cycle independently and not all at the same time so that the normal daily loss is 50-100 hair strands and the normal daily regrowth is likewise 50-100 hair strands.

An increase in falling hair may just be part of the normal growth cycle of hair. Or it may be a sign that you need to seek advice from a medical professional. When symptoms persist, it pays to seek medical advice.

### Why do men and women lose hair?

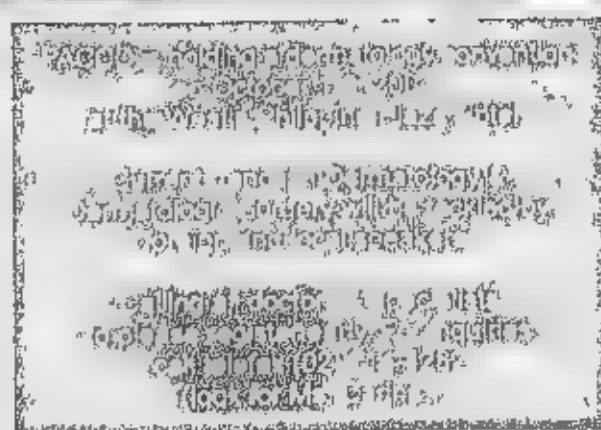
In most cases, men lose hair because of hereditary reasons. The hair follicle in the anterior scalp and vertex progressively shrinks and becomes smaller. On the other hand women lose hair due to their menstrual cycle, pregnancy, emotional stress, over-intake of Vitamin A, anemia or thyroid malfunction. Other causes of hair loss include: hair abuse like excessive blow drying, frequent styling, too much brushing, harsh chemical treatment and pollution.

### Knowing the cause is just the start

Advances in the medical profession have found effective cures for a medical problem such as excessive hair loss. Knowing what causes it is just the start of the treatment process. You still need expert advice only medical professionals can offer.

Minoxidil is one of the best medical treatments for hair loss. For genetic alopecia, Minoxidil is the only proven effective topical therapy. You want long hair? Start now with Minoxidil Regroe.

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More men and women can now attest to the effectiveness of Minoxidil *Regroe* as a solution to their hair loss problem.

### AUTHORIZED BY EXPERTS

Minoxidil Regroe is clinically and dermatologically tested for product safety and efficacy based on studies conducted by the Dermatology Institute Foundation of the Philippines (DIFP). It is the first hair regrowth treatment approved by The US-FDA and BFAD in the Philippines. Most medical experts now recommend Minoxidil Regroe for hair loss treatment. Studies convincingly show that:

1. Two times a day application stops excessive falling hair within 1 month.
2. New hair starts to grow within 3 months of treatment. Hair follicles are continuously stimulated to grow bigger follicles, thus producing relatively longer and thicker hair

### HOW MINOXIDIL REGROE WORKS:

**STIMULATION.** Minoxidil Regroe directly stimulates the small hair matrix cells to continuously divide and multiply to produce longer and thicker hair.

**IMPROVEMENT OF CIRCULATION AND NUTRITION.** Minoxidil Regroe dilates and increases the size of smaller blood vessels around the follicles, resulting in improved blood flow for better nutrition and oxygenation of the follicles.

**ANTI-ANDROGEN ACTION.** Minoxidil Regroe acts as an anti-androgen by inhibiting the synthesis of dihydrotestosterone, the active form of androgen which is responsible for the clinical occurrence of baldness.

Minoxidil is the generic name of *Regroe*  
If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

For questions on hair loss, call 817-2303



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**2003 Consumers Choice Awards for  
MOST OUTSTANDING STRAIGHTENING CENTER**

**2003 Year Ender and Jose Rizal Memorial Awards for  
TOP HAIR SALON OF THE YEAR**

**2003 National Franchise 500**

## For DHS-NCR Form No. 2001, Series of 2004





LAWYER Reginald Oben, Alfred Ty, Mobuharu Tabata, Severino Lim, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando and Bayanihan dancer Pebbles Ragon doing the ceremonial pouring of water to symbolize business harmony.



MASTER of ceremonies Eric Eloraga, MMDA Chair Fernando, Bayanihan executive director Suzie Benitez and Toyota Motor Phils. vice president Alfred Ty



TOYOTA Shaw's hotshot chair Severino Lim giving the opening speech.



TOYOTA Shaw's general manager Liberty Magsipoc

## New car showroom; World Cup fever in Manila



PORTUGUESE Ambassador Joao Caetano da Silva with Adidas Phils. president Jon Alonte



THE PODIUM'S Millie Dixon and host for the evening Ces Drilon



FRENCH Embassy's hunks: Sylvian Andrieau and Guillaume Des Noes



PR maven Keren Pascual with ADB's popular Portuguese looker Antonio Garcia

**T**OYOTA always does everything in big style, palangas, so when moi was invited to the opening of the newly built high-tech facilities of Toyota Shaw Inc., I immediately went.

Toyota Shaw is now in a better and bigger location with a super showroom showcasing Toyota vehicles, natch. It offers quality services and genuine parts that Toyota is famous for, palangas.

Hot-shot Bayani Fernando, chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority, gave very funny special remarks: "The reason I was invited was because of my long-time friendship with Toyota Shaw chair, Severino Lim, who stood as one of my secondary sponsors at my wedding."

The remarks were greeted with loud applause by the Toyota hot namedroppables such as lawyer Reginald Oben, Toyota Motor Phils. vice chair Alfred Ty and Toyota Phils. chair Mobuharu Tabata, plus Toyota owners and followers.

The Bayanihan dance company performed exciting rituals of the rice, which symbolized abundance; of the water, which symbolized the prayer that all transactions and relationships in Toyota Shaw would be as smooth as the water's flow; and the betel nut, which symbolized the gracious hospitality of Filipinos.

So everyone is welcome to visit Toyota Shaw, naturellement!

### Adidas auction

There has been a sport fever for the last two months because of the Olympics, US Open and UAAP-NCAA. Power sportswear Adidas is particularly on a roll since it was the supporter of the UEFA Euro 2004 football tournament, in which Greece brought home the championship.

On the local front, UEFA excitement was also running high. Way before Greece scored the major goal of the season, Adidas kicked off with its own UEFA opening at The Podium.

Attending the kickoff were diehard football enthusiasts, dahdings, such as the popular Ambassador Joao da Silva of Portugal and Johnny Romualdez, president of the Philippine Football Federation.

At midnight, the exciting live telecast of the opening game in the Lisbon games was aired. Football fans yelled and whistled with delight.

At the end of the season, which saw the underdogs come out as winners, there was a special auction hosted by television glam gal Ces Drilon. The bidding was for the benefit of a charitable institution chosen by the Portuguese ambassador himself, palangas.

The unique items at the auction were a UE-

FA shirt; a women's UEFA outfit, the only one in the Philippines; a David Beckham event kit; a "Road to Lisbon" campaign kit (an advertising kit featuring the world's top players); and Freddie Gonzales shirt (he just happens to be the Philippines' first international footballer; he plays for Vietnam).

Others auctioned were the GOL comic book and the CCCP jacket, which was part of the World Cup 1972 Heritage Collection.

The grand highlight was the auction of the in-demand Golden Boot, which is given by Adidas only to the most valuable football player.

Everything was auctioned off and Ambassador Da Silva went home a tres happy diplomat.

### Myrna Yao's big bash

It was back to the swingin' '60s when that woman of substance and strength, Commissioner Myrna T. Yao of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, marked another dazzling year with a trip down memory lane at the Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club Banquet in Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluy-

ong, palangas.

Myrna's pals from various organizations were all there. She had been, at one time or another, the president of the Filipino-Chinese Federation of Business and Professional Women of the Phils., National Council of Women of the Phils., and Pearl S. Buck Foundation Phils. She had also been a board member of Technical Education Skills and Development Authority and Zonta Club.

Myrna celebrated the special day with her family, pals and "colleagues," as one way of thanking them for supporting her through a year-round of hard work and busy schedule.

"Her birthday becomes her unwinding treat to maintain the youthfulness of her body and mind," explained a guest.

So there they were, rock-and-rolling to the sounds of the '60s, après feasting on a huge buffet table consisting of Filipino and Chinese dishes, which Myrna herself chose.

In attendance were Consul General of Kazakhstan Edward Ferreira; Management Association of the Phils.' president and SGV & Co. chair David Balangue; Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry chair Serge Ortiz and honorary chair Mike Varela; National Broadcasting Network's lawyer Romulo Macalintal; brilliant SM Shoemart president Tessie Coson; and Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando.

It was crystal clear that the heavyweights present had a blast, with that worldwide hit tune that cracked the floor, "Let's twist and shout like we did last summer."

### WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH



Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max



SERGE Ortiz and Narda Camacho (top); lawyer Milte Varela (right)



FIL-CHI PALS. Lawyer Romulo Macalintal, Resario "Charing" Villar and Gigi Manzanilla



DR. Lolita Sunglao, Mila Macalintal, Judy Sy and lawyer Amy Wong



EVERYONE'S dream sport shoe: The Golden Boot—given to the most valuable player in football by Adidas



ODETTE Velardo, Gloria Rodriguez, Nel Belgado, Mark Bonjoc, Leslie Santos, Goody Castedios (back row) Sandra Paredes, Julius Tabigue, Stewart Sy Suan, John Alonte, Bill Velasco and Toti Wong



COMMISSIONER Myrna Yao (second from left) celebrating her birthday with friends: (seated) Dave Balangue of SGV and MAR, Tessie Coson, Cynthia Subijano and Ed Ferreira; (standing) Rosalind Wee, Marilyn Ong, Manny Alvarez and Josephine Ong



## Skin care program for all types of complexion

CRABTREE & Evelyn's Swiss Skin Care program is natural and simple. It is effective, versatile, easy to use and suitable for every skin type.

Using floral and herb extracts (particularly chamomile), the product range provides protection from harsh environmental factors while maintaining the skin's moisture balance.

To cleanse and refresh:

**Cleansing Milk (P950/200 ml)**—A water soluble cleanser, it removes dirt and makeup without upsetting the skin's moisture balance. It has extracts of chamomile, sage and thyme.

**Cleansing Bar (P500/100 g)**—A mild bar with shea butter, it eliminates excess oil without causing dryness. It is best applied by working up a lather with a facial or shaving brush.

**Herbal Tonic (P950/200 ml)**—Alcohol-free, it completes the cleansing process and refreshes the skin. It contains witch hazel to stimulate the skin, as well as extracts of sage to tighten pores, thyme to act as a mild antiseptic and chamomile extract to soothe.

To soften:

**24-Hour Emulsion (P1,325/100 ml)**—A light moisturizer, it penetrates quickly and softens without clogging pores. It contains Vitamin A and apricot kernel oil and is suitable for all skin types.

**Moisturizing Day Cream (P1,325/47 ml)**—For daily use, it softens skin and provides protection against the environment. It contains chamomile extract and Vitamin A to keep skin supple without greasiness.

**Enriched Night Cream (P1,600/47 ml)**—A rich, easily absorbed cream, it contains Vitamins D and E, avocado and wheat germ oils. It also contains allantoin to soothe skin and collagen for use for whenever the skin is too dry and needs extra moisturizing.

Body care:

**Body Cream (P2,150/200 mg)**—A deep moisturizing cream, it helps keep skin smooth and supple. Blended for quick ab-



CRABTREE & Evelyn's Swiss Skin Care Eau Fraiche (body mist)

sorption, it contains humectants and emollients.

**Body Lotion (P950/200 ml)**—A soothing, light and penetrating lotion, it contains moisturizers and herbal extracts (including chamomile) to provide protection against dryness.

**Bath/fragrance:**

**Foaming Bath Gel (P800/300 ml)**—Spring-based water, this light gel can be used in the bath or the shower.

**Bath Soap (P500/150 g)**—A luxurious triple-milled soap enriched with shea butter.

**Eau Fraiche (P1,325/100 ml)**—This lightly scented body mist, with extracts of ivy and ginseng, refreshes and stimulates. It is an ideal fragrance after a bath or during the day.

**Antiperspirant (P900/30 ml)**—A roll-on, it dries quickly and leaves underarms smooth, without stickiness. Water-based, it is mild enough for delicate skin.

Methyl Salicylate + Menthol

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PHILIPPINE NON-RANKING TOURNAMENT

The country's most awaited Non-Ranking Badminton Tournament supported by the Philippine Badminton Association starts today, September 17, 2004.

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For your schedules, please call:

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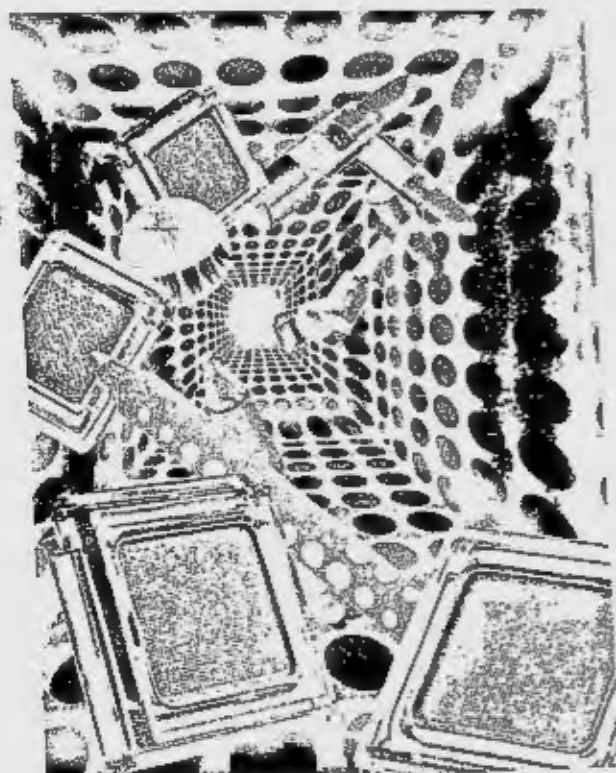
email: bengaytournament@yahoo.com  
or visit: www.philbadminton.com



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SHU Uemura Future Mode 001

## Time for looks...

From page F1

skin!

**Nars Uptown Chic Collection.** Trust Nars to go the opposite trend, as it has opted for classy (read: tasteful and demure) glamour. My choice picks include the Chihuahua lip gloss (beige peachy pink), Bamako eyeliner (plum), individual eye shadows in Cyprus (golden bronze) and Barbuda (eggplant) and Taos (burnt rose with shimmer) Blush

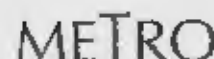


CHANEL Think Ink lip color

for that "I am blushing" effect. Cheeks do seem to be this makeup brand's focus.

Now, here's a makeup find. I-nuovi is half the price here compared to Singapore, and its quality is certainly competitive to other brand names. My favorites: blushes for P450 each in appealing shades such as Aura, peachy pink with shimmer (comes pretty close to Nars Orgasm), Candy (bubblegum pink) and Juicy (baby pink). Lipsticks are comparable in texture to Sue de Vitt at P450 each. Eye shadows are at P350 each, with very good pigment quality and a wide range of color. I-nuovi's brushes are made of natural hair and are relatively cheaper than most prestige brands.

Nars is exclusively sold at Essences Russian's, while Chanel and Shu Uemura are in Rustan's Department Store. I-nuovi is available at any pcr or First Aid (2/F Greenbelt 3) store



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# savournature '04

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September 2 to 30, 2004 • Greenbelt 2 & 3, Makati City

For the whole month of September, Greenbelt 2 & 3's finest restaurants and bars will showcase culinary masterpieces especially made to celebrate a vision for a living planet. Come sit down to this month-long feast and help WWF, the global conservation organization, find better ways for Filipinos to live in harmony with the environment.

Dig in to the dishes and delight your senses in this unique festival. Plus, get a chance to win exciting prizes in a special raffle!

List of Participating Restaurants

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Greenbelt 3: Absinth • Casa Amas • Chimera • Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf • Dome • D'Mark's • Figaro Coffee Shop • Gaudi Bar Restaurant • Haagen Dazs • Kitchen • Max Brenner • Merck's Entertainment and Bistro • MyLK • Red Box Karaoke • San Marzano • Seafood Club by Red Crab • Starbucks • The Good Earth Tea Room • Tavern on the Square

FOOD

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From period: September 2-30, 2004.  
Grand Draw: October 4, 2004.  
\*See leaders for complete details.  
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-519 Series of 2004.

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